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FBIS-LAT-89-075 *20 April 1989*

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Cuba

Party Secretary on Angola, Namibia Situation

LD1904134989 Budapest MTI in English 1155 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Budapest, April 19 (MTI)—Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, who has headed the Cuban delegation for two years to negotiate the withdrawal of troops from Angola and the independence of Namibia, gave a statement to MTI in Havana.

He says pulling out their forces from Angola has been an extremely complex and costly process. In the course of seven months, 3,000 troops a month are to leave Africa. At present, half the units have returned. In the final six months of the withdrawal, 12,000 Cuban soldiers are to leave. The final stage of withdrawal will be the strike and manoeuvring units, such as the armoured units, the complete air defense system, the heavy artillery and all combat fighters.

On last week's crisis the secretary of the Cuban Communist Party said: The future of the settlement in South West Africa seems to be jeopardized. Fighting was resumed in the northern frontier zone between Namibia and Angola. The crisis caught even Cuba by surprise. Cuba then tried to concentrate on saving the future of the settlement and preventing massacre. The decision announced by the president of the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] to withdraw their troops from Namibia opened the way for settlement. The agreement was to set up corridors on Namibian territory for SWAPO forces to leave the country under the supervision of UN forces.

In order to ease the atmosphere of distrust, Cuba recommends the SWAPO president should present an official statement to the special commissioner of the UN general secretary informing him when all the troops of the organization have left Namibia. This could be followed by the UN commissioner's and the Namibian governor's visit to verify on the spot in order to officially conclude the conflict. South African troops should return to their bases, and the full length of the Angolan-Namibian borderline should be monitored by UN forces.

SWAPO Official on Adherence to Resolution

FL1904183689 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] (Peter Chijama), representative of the South-West African People's Organization in Cuba, has said that SWAPO fulfills and will fulfill all the stipulations established in UN Security Council Resolution 435 and that SWAPO marks its 29th anniversary with more strength and determination than ever. (Chijama) added: This 29th anniversary finds the SWAPO not only as the legitimate vanguard of the Namibian people but also as the force that can guarantee peace and organize the true people's government. The highest SWAPO official in Cuba added:

[Begin (Chijama) recording, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] I would like to conclude by expressing the SWAPO's sincere gratitude and our deep appreciation to Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA [Popular Liberation Movement of Angola]-Labor Party and to the fraternal people of Angola for their material and moral support in the struggle of the Namibian people.

I would also like to express SWAPO's profound appreciation to Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, and to its people, whose valiant efforts led to favorable conditions for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435. Long live proletarian internationalism! The struggle continues, victory is certain! [applause] [end recording]

Vice Foreign Minister Views UN Namibian Plan

PA2004034789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0145 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Report by Marie Joannidis]

[Text] Havana, 19 Apr (AFP)—Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon told AFP tonight that Cuba expects full implementation of the UN plan for northern Namibia. Alarcon's statements came hours before a meeting in the Namibian city of Ruacana to discuss the clashes that broke out on 1 April between SWAPO and South Africa.

The Cuban delegation to the tripartite commission—which also includes Angola and South Africa—left Havana on Tuesday, headed by Carlos Aldana, a member of the Cuban Communist Party's politiburo and Central Committee.

"The problem is being solved and the situation has calmed down," Alarcon said, although he expressed some concern over the gathering of South African troops at their bases in northern Namibia.

Cuba wants the UN forces to be deployed to Namibia's northern front to carry out their mission of fully implementing UN Resolution 435, which calls for the gathering of South African and guerrilla forces at their respective bases.

Alarcon participated in negotiations in December, which ended with the peace agreement on Namibian independence and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

Approximately 10 days ago, Alarcon attended the Mount Etjo meeting in Namibia, where measures were adopted to end the clashes that broke out on 1 April in northern Namibia between SWAPO guerrillas—who infiltrated the country from Angola—and Namibian police forces backed by South Africa.

"Those were unfortunate incidents," Alarcon stressed, adding that SWAPO has demonstrated militarily that in the future there are two forces that must be contended with.

Alarcon congratulated himself on the fact that a significant number of SWAPO fighters returned to Angola in compliance with the Mount Etjo agreement and in response to a call from their leader, Sam Nujoma.

The UN forces "are beginning to appear," Alarcon added. "On 1 April, there was only one UN regional captain in northern Namibia instead of the three battalions expected—Finnish, Kenyan, and Malaysian—as established in the UN plan," he said.

Prior to 1 April, Cuba, Africa, and the Nonaligned Movement protested against the reduction of the UN contingent, a decision made by the UN Security Council's permanent members, including the United States and the USSR.

"I must admit that the situation is normalizing," Alarcon said, recalling South Africa's efforts to use the incidents in northern Namibia to the advantage of the Namibian forces it supports.

Delegation Arrives in Luanda En Route to Namibia

FL2004011289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2306 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The Cuban delegation that is going to attend the next special meeting of the joint commission, also composed of Angola and South Africa, arrived in Luanda today en route to the border locality of Ruancana. The meeting called by Angola will be held in that place in Namibia tomorrow, Thursday, to reexamine solution formulas to the situation created in the northern area of that territory since the beginning of this month. There have been violent clashes between SWAPO combatants and police forces supported by the South African Army.

Carlos Aldana, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Secretariat, is heading the Cuban delegation, also composed of Division General Jesus Bermudez Cutino and Alcibiades Hidalgo.

A previous special meeting held in Mount Etjo, 200 km of Windhoeck, the Namibian capital, only 10 days ago approved a number of measures aimed at guaranteeing the resumption of the implementation of the plan for Namibia's independence.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez Comments on TV Marti

FL2004001889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2323 GMT 19 Apr 89

["Text" of interview with Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, by PRENSA LATINA; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Cuba will take the necessary measures to confront the anti-Cuban television plan financed by the United States, said Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez in Havana. The Cuban leader said it was inconceivable that after the failure of the so-called Radio Marti, the U.S. Administration maintains the position of allocating funds to begin television transmissions beamed to Cuba. We are here, willing to repudiate the two of them, willing to take the necessary measures to confront these attacks, said Carlos Rafael.

The Cuban vice president also asserted that the United States knows perfectly well that Cuba has the resources and the means to confront this reactionary mission.

Friends, in the middle of last week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the allocation of $32 million for the anti-Cuban television project. The beginning of its operations was announced for the end of this year.

Referring to this possibility, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez assured that the Cuban people will receive the television broadcasts in the same way they have received the so-called Radio Marti; that is, it will not have an effect in the combative readiness and will not be capable of sowing the seed of discord in Cuba.

Asked about the meaning of the approval of funds despite some reports of changes of Washington's global policies against Cuba, he said this and other events show that attempts have been made to contain what appeared to have been a possibility of agreement during the first stage of the Bush administration. That is, a possibility of agreement during the Bush administration's first stage. So far, Bush has not shown that he has understood the need of deep changes in matters of global and regional policies. To the contrary, he has shown great indecision by maintaining, for example, a static situation regarding the nuclear agreements.

According to the Cuban leader, real instances need to be taken into account such as the fact that the U.S. Administration—at least in its first stage—is not making any gesture that would smooth the situation between Cuba and the United States. He stressed that Cuba, contrary to what Secretary of State James Baker assures in a document he circulated recently to embassies and consulates is not anxious regarding its relations with the United States.

We are willing to improve relations if Washington wants to improve them but, if they do not want to, we can spend up to 100 more years fighting against them as we

have done during the last 3 decades, said Carlos Rafael. After saying Cuba can live against the United States and even without the United States, he noted: We would like to live better next to the United States with a normal relation as it corresponds to countries in this stage of international development in which East-West confrontations and large regional conflicts begin to be solved.

Risquet Speaks at News Conference in Berlin

FL1904153489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] In statements made during a news conference in Berlin, Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo, stated that Cuba is making efforts to ensure that the application of UN Resolution 435 continues its normal course in Namibia. He recalled that this resolution establishes that, 12 weeks after 1 April, only 1,500 South African soldiers can remain in Namibia. Risquet added that those South African soldiers must be withdrawn by the 7th month. Risquet also emphasized the complete agreement of opinions between Cuba and the GDR in bilateral and international matters, and he assessed as excellent the recent visit of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Head of National Bank Meets PRC Officials

FL1904212289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2002 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Li Guixian, state councilor and chairman of the People's Bank of China, received Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the National Bank of Cuba, in Beijing today. The two officials talked about the strengthening of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on the economic development of the two countries. Rodriguez Llompart also talked with Wang Deyan, chairman of the Bank of China.

Trade Minister on Increased Regional Trade

FL2004015089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2308 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Cuba has achieved a greater sustained increase of trade with Latin American countries which amounted to $600 million in 1988. This was said in Havana by Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas. This policy of closeness and identification of interests has been a response to U.S. attempts to widen the gap of isolation between Cuba and the rest of the region, asserted Cabrisas.

He noted that sugar, nickel sinter, and scrap metal are among Havana's main exports to the Latin American region. Cuba mainly imports foodstuffs and industrial goods and our country seeks to prioritize the development of other nontraditional goods.

The Cuban foreign trade minister added that Cuba is showing considerable progress in shrimp production in addition to the production of zeolite, electronics, and biotechnology. All these spheres are geared toward exports.

Castro Attends Ceremony Honoring 'Heroes'

FL1904233589

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 2230 GMT on 19 April carries live the inauguration ceremony of the eternal flame for the "heroes of the new fatherland" from Habana Vieja's Granma Memorial. Announcer Douglas Fernandez reports that Commander in Chief Fidel Castro makes his entrance and applauses are heard. The ceremony begins when the Cuban flag is brought in by officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, FAR. Fernandez says aircraft that were involved in the Bay of Pigs invasion on 19 April 1961 are on exhibit at the Granma Memorial. A band is heard playing when Fernandez says the honor guard is seen entering the place. Fernandez then reports that Castro ignites the eternal flame.

The announcer notes that FAR officers approach the area where the flame is located and place a floral wreath. Taps are heard and the Cuban national anthem is played.

A pioneer girl recites a poem honoring the heroes who have fallen for the fatherland.

Division General Rogelio Acevedo, vice minister and chief of the Central Political Directorate of the FAR, delivers a 12-minute speech. Div Gen Acevedo says the eternal flame symbolizes the "memory and homage to the eternal heroes of the new fatherland." He notes this ceremony takes place on the same date and time in which the last mercenaries who landed in Giron fell 28 years ago.

Acevedo refers to historic events that finally led to the triumph of the revolution. He says the eternal heroes of the new fatherland are those who fell at the Moncada Barracks, at the "Granma," in clandestine operations, in the rebel army and Bay of Pigs, among others. He lists the names of some of those heroes.

The announcer says the ceremony is over and that Fidel Castro, who is accompanied by Raul Castro, is seen greeting a group of people.

State Committee To Investigate MiG-21 Crash

FL1904145089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Rafael Varona Nieves is recovering satisfactorily from the burns he suffered when a MiG-21 fighter plane crashed in Holguin. The 26-year-old patient is being treated at the intensive therapy section of the burn unit in the Vladimir Ilich Lenin Hospital in Holguin.

Lieutenant Felix Senen Delgado, the 22-year-old pilot of the plane, died in the accident; he was from Matanzas. The three other people who suffered slight injuries have already been released from the Lenin Hospital of Holguin. The plane crash damaged two houses and other buildings.

Two members of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo, Miguel Cano Blanco and Division General Ramon Espinosa, immediately arrived at the scene of the accident. The causes of the unfortunate accident will be analyzed by a state committee that has been appointed for that purpose.

Antigua and Barbuda

Two New Senatorial Appointments Reported

FL1904215489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2122 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, April 19, CANA—Two new members have been appointed to the 17-member Antigua and Barbuda Senate.

Businessman Joseph Jose Benjamin has been appointed by the Governor-General Sir Wilfred Jacobs. The other appointment is Barbuda calypsonian Ordrick Samuel, known as Lord Montgomery. He was appointed by the Barbuda local council.

The government is yet to announce a replacement for the late Donald Sheppard, leader of government business in the Senate, and died just over a week ago.

Dominica

'No-Confidence' Vote Defeated 17 to 4

FL1904172789 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Dominica's government has survived a motion of no-confidence. Prime Minister Eugenia Charles' government won the support of the parliament after a no-confidence motion was introduced into the parliament by opposition leader Michael Douglas.

The motion was related to the dismissal of Dominica's Chief Magistrate Glenworth Emmanuel. The opposition had charged that Mr Emmanuel was too strict in his sentencing, and that the ruling party is responsible for those punished too harshly. The no-confidence vote was defeated 17 to 4.

Dominican Republic

Archbishop Demands Expulsion of Namphy

FL1904154889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1454 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The archbishop of Santo Domingo, Msgr Nicolas de Jesus Lopez, criticized former Haitian President Henri Namphy, exiled in the Dominican Republic, and demanded of President Joaquin Balaguer's government Namphy's expulsion from the country. The archbishop was angered by certain statements of Namphy's to Domincan television, in which he blamed the Haitian church for the murder of 60 parishioners [word indistinct] for the military in the parish of Saint John Bosco in Port-au-Prince.

Monsignor Lopez said that Namphy's charges are shameless and irresponsible, and characterized him as a reptile, a charlatan, a comedian and a coward. According to the archbishop, when things got tough in Haiti he fled to the Dominican Republic. Namphy should not be in a Haitian prison, the Dominican archbishop said of Namphy's statements [as heard], and he demanded Namphy's expulsion of the Dominican executive.

Jorge Blanco To Appear in Court 19 Apr

FL1904180389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Two former Latin American presidents, Salvador Jorge Blanco from the Dominican Republic and Leon Febres-Cordero from Ecuador, are scheduled to appear today before the courts of their respective countries to answer accusations of administrative corruption.

Jorge Blanco, who has already been sentenced in contumacy last November to 20 years in prison and a fine of $16 million for embezzling, has been in jail ever since his return to Santo Domingo 2 months ago. The former 62-year-old president, is accused of corruption in alleged overpriced purchases made by the Armed Forces and the Dominican police during the last 2 years of his government. [passage omitted]

ETA Members To Stay in Country 'Indefinitely'

PA2004051289 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0421 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Santo Domingo, 19 Apr (REUTER)—Foreign Secretary Joaquin Ricardo said today that the six members of the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) terrorist group, who were deported from Algiers, will remain in the Dominican Republic indefinitely.

"I understand that they will remain here until Spain and the ETA reach a definite agreement," Ricardo told the local press.

"I have no further details, but I understand that this is the pledge the Dominican Government has made," the foreign secretary said.

The ETA members arrived in the Dominican capital last night. Foreign Secretary Ricardo initially said that the men were just going through this country and that their final destination could be Venezuela, Costa Rica, or Ecuador. Ricardo reportedly told REUTER: "Their final destination has not yet officially been reported, and the Dominican Republic is only a stopover." Eugenio Etxebeste, Angel Iturbe, Jose Maria Ganchegui, and the members of the so-called "Madrid Commando"—Belen Gonzalez, Ignacio Aranaca, and Jose Manuel Soares—are all being closely watched and were delivered to Dominican authorities by Spanish security officials.

On Tuesday, Algeria evicted the six prominent ETA leaders in what was regarded as a harsh blow against the Basque separatist guerrillas, who have become increasingly isolated since they broke a truce and began a new offensive. The six deported men include ETA representatives at the peace negotiations with the Spanish Government.

The ETA leaders arrived in the Dominican Republic amid strict security measures on board a Spanish Air Force plane. They were lodged in an apartment in the residential Piantini neighborhood in the center of the city, sources report.

The deportation was the latest in a series of setbacks suffered by the guerrillas since they launched a new offensive this month, after breaking a 3-month truce.

The peace talks with the government were broken off after ETA accused it of breaking an alleged promise to negotiate a political solution. Madrid has publicly ruled out political concessions.

The 35 or 40 Basques left in Algeria will be expelled to Gabon, Cape Verde, or Saint Thomas. The measure adopted by Algeria was unanimously endorsed by the legislature.

Haiti

RDC Calls for Demonstration on 21 Apr

FL1904140589 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1700 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The RDC [Christian Democratic Assembly] thinks it is time for the Haitian people throughout Haiti, from north to south and east to west, to wake up. Therefore, we of the RDC are organizing a march called March of National Awakening. This march will be Friday, 21 April 1989. It will begin at 0900 in front of the church of Saint Jean Bosco and in front of the Ministry of National Education.

Come demonstrate with the Haitian people against the violations committed against the press and the Constitution, the divisions instituted within the Army and within the Haitian people by Prosper Avril, the lies, the firings, the arbitrary and partisan appointments, the sending into exile of officers, and the replanting, so to speak, of criminal macoutes.

Patriots, antimacoute democrats, and democratic political parties are cordially invited to participate massively, (?either actively or passively) in this March of National Awakening being organized by the RDC.

We point out that the RDC held a news conference this morning at CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers] headquarters on Casernes Street during which several aspects of the recent events in Haiti were discussed. The RDC's leader talked mostly about the president of the military government, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril.

[Begin Eddy Volel recording, in Creole] [Passage omitted] He does not respect the oath he took on the Constitution. [passage omitted] He had no right to remove any articles whatsoever from the Constitution of 1987. We see that this didn't bother him at all. He did it. Thus, in fact, he is someone who does not know either what he is doing or what he is saying. [passage omitted]

He circulated the rumor that his wife does not want him to remain in power. [passage omitted] Thus we see this is another lie aimed at disarming us in order to make us (?wait). [Words indistinct] removing him from power.

We see that Henri Nammphy, from where he is, is applauding Prosper Avril. We see that Prosper Avril is also making changes in the CEP [Permanent Electoral Council], just like Henri Namphy. You think Prosper Avril intends to hold elections? Never!

On 28 November Henri Namphy was still maintaining that there would be free and democratic elections in Haiti! And on 29 November he got up and carried out his 29 November massacre. [passage omitted]

Already Prosper Avril has said it rather loudly. He said so all could hear that the country is not yet ready for elections. [passage omitted]

Furthermore this is the first time in the history of Haiti that you see a guy destroy the Haitian Army like that! [passage omitted]

This is the first time anyone has scorned the people like that, like Prosper Avril has done. He says anything at all in the name of the Haitian people, and meanwhile he is killing the Haitian people. We know that insecurity has barely begun in Haiti! [passage omitted]

And we think that this is a serious violation, not only against the owners and employees of those press organs but also against the Haitian people's right to be informed. And if that information had been (?available), Prosper Avril knows full well that there is a 99 percent chance that he would no longer be here, because the

Haitian people would have gone after him, at the palace. And that's what he didn't want, and that is why he brutally crushed those press organs. [passage omitted]

We wonder if Namphy or Franck Romain aren't going to be Haiti's next interior and information ministers? Because Prosper Avril had no qualms about allowing Regala to return. [passage omitted]

We must resign ourselves. You cannot make an omelet without breaking eggs. We are doing this now (?so we) can catch our breath, so our kids can catch a breath, so that the country at last can catch a breath. [passage omitted]

It looks like Prosper Avril constitutes the Duvalierist hard line. He says there were Duvalierists involved, that it was a Duvalierist, a macoute plot. But those Duvalierists (?are already) out of the country. The Haitian people had already driven them out. Thus there are no problems. It is Prosper Avril whom we need to drive out. [passage omitted]

Has Avril ever said how much money he makes? [passage omitted] Has he ever told the Haitian people how much his personal fortune is worth? (?It is said) that his personal fortune is worth $45 million. [passage omitted] In a little country like Haiti, this is an injustice, a declaration of war on the Haitian people. [passage omitted]

Democratic Forces Demonstration 'Called Off'

FL1904200489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The time is 0736. We point out, Lamy, that according to a telephone call from Gilles Michel Hendrick and Max Jean-Charles Berlus, who are deputy coordinator and member of the political bureau of the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces, respectively [pauses] ...well, they announced this morning that the demonstration scheduled for today has been called off. [passage omitted]

Just yesterday, they sent a press release dated 18 April supporting this demonstration. However, this morning they said that they have learned that apparently the macoutes have decided to infiltrate the demonstration. Thus, they say, they have sent this press release to say that they can no longer hold this peaceful demonstration they were going to hold in support of the process of change that General Avril's government has undertaken, because of the macoutes, who it seems are determined to infiltrate the demonstration.

Thus, Gilles Hendrick and Max Jean-Charles Berlus told us this morning that the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces' demonstration is no longer going to be held.

More on Postponement

FL1904202089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The demonstration against macoutism and drugs scheduled for today by the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces has been postponed. However, before this initiative was canceled, Dr Gilles Hendrick had explained the objectives of the initiative to us.

[Begin Hendrick recording, in Creole] It isn't a progovernment demonstration. Indeed, we, our party, is fighting autocracy, dictatorship, corruption, breach of trust, and mediocrity within the public administration, the Haitian foreign service, and the governmental apparatus in general.

We are also fighting corruption within the society in which we live.

We know that the instigators of last 2 April's failed coup d'etat were the drug traffickers within the Haitian Army, in collusion with Duvalierists of the extreme right.

These are positions based on principle, an upright position. We would have taken this same position whether Avril was in power or not, and we would have scheduled this same demonstration if the Heubreux, Biamby, etc, team [as heard] had come to power. [end recording] [passage omitted]

This demonstration was canceled and a new date for the demonstration has not been set. Dr Gilles Hendrick said that he feared for the marchers' security. Let's listen to him again.

[Begin Hendrick recording, in Creole] Tomorrow morning, we will send another press release to the radio and television stations announcing to them exactly when we will hold this antimacoute demonstration, this demonstration in support of a transition to democracy.

The reason we are not demonstrating tomorrow is that we have received information from reliable sources to the effect that the macoutes are planning to spoil the demonstration. They are planning to shoot at, and throw grenades into the crowd. Therefore, because we do not want to endanger the lives of the population, the lives of our partisans, the demonstrators, and the lives of the defenders of democracy, we feel that we should postpone the demonstration.

Thus, as we said, there will be a press release issued giving the date and place of the demonstration we are planning. The demonstration will probably be next week, and we hope that between now and then, there will be better coordination among the police forces, which must, in one way or another, provide protection for us. That is what the police forces are for. If they are really in favor of democracy, in favor of there being a transition to democracy in Haiti, we ask, we think that they must provide protection for us. [passage omitted]

In a press release tomorrow morning, we will inform the public, the Haitian people, as to when this demonstration will take place. [end recording] [passage omitted]

President Says End to Debt Problems 'in Sight'
PA1804132289 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 14 Apr 89 p 1

["Staff" report]

[Text] Guadalajara, Jalisco—President Carlos Salinas de Gortari told industrialists here Thursday that a way out of Mexico's debt problems is "now in sight."

Referring to the agreement announced Wednesday with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the president said "we are halfway down the right road and there is no turning back now."

The letter of intent Mexico signed and sent to the IMF this week is for "growth without new economic adjustments and accepts the congruency of our economic policy," Salinas said. "Our development program is the agreement, rather than the inverse."

Salinas noted that the accord recognizes Mexico's priority of reinitiating economic growth, adding that it accepts the country's anti-inflationary plan, the Pact for Economic Stabilization and Growth (PECE).

The president spoke at a construction industry meeting, during which he said the IMF agreement recognizes the "enormous sacrifice" that the Mexican people have made. Salinas said the agreement complies with the promises he made to the people.

Salinas Orders Investigation Into Tax Evasion
PA1804182089 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] During a meeting on 12 April at the official Los Pinos residence to analyze the problems in the La Laguna region, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari proposed a plan to eliminate the corruption affecting the residents of La Laguna. The president instructed the Secretariat of the Comptroller General to continue investigating until the end, regardless of who is involved, and to do so openly.

Following the president's instructions, Maria Elena Vasquez Nava, who is in charge of the Secretariat of the Comptroller General, ordered the implementation of a special plan to reinforce and speed up the investigation under way in the region.

As a result of this plan, and with the support of the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat, sufficient evidence was found to charge the Indemnizacion y Multiservicios Company with tax evasion involving the sale of 20 billion pesos worth of cotton.

Based on this, the Attorney General's Office yesterday ordered the arrest of the following people: Jose Barba Gonzalez, manager of the company; Adalberto Castro Montoya, legal representative and former employee of the Banrural company; and Jose Maria Chavez Barba, Antonio Tornano Prado, Jose Antonio Ramirez Rueda, Vivenia Valdivia Rodriguez, and Jose Tayagua Hernandez, all shareholders in the company.

In statements to the secretariat, Mr Adalberto Castro Montoya and Jose Barba Gonzalez implicated Juan Manuel Grose Montemayor, former manager of the northern branch of Banrural. They said he had asked for a percentage of cotton sales, which totaled several hundred million pesos.

As a result of this, the Secretariat of the Comptroller General filed charges against Grose Montemayor so the Attorney General's Office could take the action it deemed necessary. Investigations into this matter will continue until they are completed. A group from the secretariat of the comptroller general and Banrural have been sent to Torreon Coahuila to investigate.

Foreign Secretary in Spain, Encourages Trade
FL2004023989 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2153 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Madrid, 17 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales reported today that Mexico and Spain are preparing a broad economic cooperation agreement that will have the participation of businessmen and banks of the two countries.

The Mexican foreign secretary met this afternoon with heads of the Spanish Federation of Business Organizations whom he called to participate in the formulation and implementation of the agreement and take advantage of the new cooperation outlook between Mexico and Spain.

Solana Morales said the two countries are experiencing great changes in their economic relations caused by Spain's membership in the EEC and the transformation of the Mexican economy, which had to enter a new stage of openness after the growth program based on protection was depleted.

The subject of the renegotiation of the Mexican foreign debt and the outlook of the agreement signed recently by Mexico with the IMF was also discussed during the Mexican foreign secretary's meeting with Spanish businessmen.

The businessmen expressed their doubts about the restrictions Mexican laws impose on foreign investments. Solana Morales reported that the law is currently being revised and a new one will be announced soon including support, incentives, and terms for foreign investors.

Solana, who was accompanied by Under Secretary Andres Rosenthal, advisers coordinator Jesus Reyes Heroles, and Mexican representative to the GATT Jorge Seade, explained that the economic situation in which Mexico has fallen—because of the terrible weight of the foreign debt and economic management errors—require

immediate measures for development. He said Mexico has a great interest in getting closer to Spain in this new stage and is willing to support Spanish businessmen.

Jose Maria Cuevas, chairman of the Spanish Federation of Business Organizations, expressed the businessmen's confidence in Mexico's economic future and said they hope to count with instruments that will facilitate the work of investors within a framework of mutual benefit.

The Mexican foreign secretary noted that the trade cooperation agreement will establish new supports, tariffs, and access to large markets, in line with Spanish law and the new Mexican legislation on foreign investment.

An agreement between the National Bank of Foreign Trade of Mexico, the National Bank of Mexico, and one of the main Spanish commercial networks to distribute Mexican goods in Spain was officially announced. Also, the promotion of Mexican art books in Spain and a future seminar for investments promotion of the EEC in Mexico was also announced. A call was made to promote Mexican goods in the over 60 annual fairs that Spain holds.

Foreign Debt Negotiations Begin 19 Apr

FL1904214089 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1956 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Excerpts] New York, 19 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Banking sources said in New York today that the rescheduling of the foreign debt, which began here today, will attempt to determine the amount in which the debt will be reduced and the rescheduling of payments.

According to reports given to NOTIMEX by bankers from various countries before the renegotiation with the banks committee began, the matter in these negotiations is not whether the debt will be reduced or not but in what amount and how the rescheduling of the debt will be carried out.

The committee, chaired by William Rhodes, vice president of Citibank, opened officially this morning the new round of negotiations on the Mexican foreign debt, which amounts to over $100 billion.

A U.S. banker, who asked not to be identified, assured that they would begin the negotiations by trying to find an arrangement that would allow Mexico to return to the voluntary market of capitals.

The U.S. Brady plan, designed to reduce the debt of 39 of the most indebted countries of the world, establishes that banks will be able to choose the most convenient reduction program on a voluntary basis.

Two European bankers, from the four European institutions represented in the committee, stressed the importance they give to the voluntary factor and reiterated that they arrived at the negotiations with the intent of finding an arrangement that would satisfy all the parties.

According to reports, the first point on the agenda would be a meeting of representatives of commercial banks with which Mexico has contracted for some $60 billion.

A U.S. source indicated that the banks will have the chance to exchange views directly with representatives of the IMF and the World Bank on the state of the Mexican economy as well as on the agreement letters signed with the IMF. [passage omitted]

The participants of the meeting that were consulted estimated that the negotiations will last several weeks and that reports on their various stages will be kept to a minimum inasmuch as they asserted that they agreed with Mexican officials not to reveal information on the negotiating process.

Trade Balance Posts Surplus in January

PA1904132389 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 17 Apr 89 p 36

[Report by David Alder]

[Text] Mexico's trade balance registered its first surplus in four months in January despite a slowdown in growth of non-petroleum exports, figures released Sunday by the Programming and Budget Secretariat (SPP) show.

Exports outpaced imports by 99 million dollars, an SPP press release containing preliminary figures of the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) states.

January exports of 1.763 billion dollars increased by 5.4 percent over the same month in 1988, while imports of 1.664 million dollars were down 4 percent from a year ago. The value of January imports was lower than registered in each of the four previous months, the press release states.

Non-petroleum exports were up by 10 percent from the level registered in January 1988. That is considerably lower than the dramatic annual growth registered by non-petroleum exports for January-November 1988, which was reported at 18 percent. January's petroleum exports were 3 percent lower than a year ago, despite higher international prices.

Within the non-petroleum category, January's manufactured exports showed annual growth of 19.9 percent, the SPP reported.

Using Banco de Mexico figures from January 1988 as a base, a 10 percent rise in non-petroleum exports would add up to about 1.15 billion dollars in foreign sales for January 1989. That would put petroleum exports for the month at about 609 million dollars, or a 26.4 percent increase over foreign petroleum sales in November 1988, which is the last month for which Banco de Mexico has offered detailed trade data.

The importance of increasing oil prices for public finances was noted in the letter of intent that Mexico recently signed with the International Monetary Fund. The letter states that the budgeted estimate of an average oil export price of 10 dollars per barrel for 1989 has been raised to 12 dollars per barrel. The difference, if not offset by other factors, would raise Mexico's primary budget surplus for the year to 7.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) from the original budget estimate of 6.7 percent of GDP, the letter states.

UNOMASUNO on Surplus

PA1904195089 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 17 Apr 89 p 15

[Summary] Sources from the National Institute of Geography, Statistics, and Data Processing; Customs General Directorate; and Bank of Mexico have reported that Mexico's balance of trade with the rest of the world showed a $99-million surplus in January 1989, which is in contrast with the negative figures reached during the last 4 months of 1988.

The same sources explained that Mexico's overall oil and nonoil exports totaled $1.763 billion, an increase of 5.4 percent over January 1988. Meanwhile, Mexico's overall imports stood at $1.664 billion, which represents a decrease from the figures during each of the last 4 months.

Government officials reported that private imports fell 7 percent compared to January 1988, while the export of nonoil manufactured products increased 19.9 percent compared to the same period in 1988.

Government officials stated that in spite of the significant recovery shown by oil sales during the last few months, the January 1989 figures were still down 3 percent compared to January 1988.

USSR To Provide 94 Academic Scholarships

PA1904141189 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Apr 89 p 25-A

[Text] The USSR will grant 94 scholarships to Mexican teachers and researchers, while Mexico will grant 15 graduate-level scholarships to Soviet students in the fields of humanities, natural sciences, and the Spanish language.

The exchange stems from the signing of the 1989-90 Cultural and Scientific Exchange Program agreement by Javier Barrios Valero, Mexican deputy foreign affairs secretary "C," and Soviet Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy L. Adamishin.

The program agreement was signed within the framework of the ninth meeting of the joint Mexican-Soviet commission for exchange in cultural and scientific fields, held in Moscow. The program calls for a wide variety of exchanges, ranging from cultural affairs to health, tourism, education, sports, and communications media.

The exchange program envisions visits by Mexicans to the USSR and Soviets to Mexico in connection with teaching and research. A touring exhibition of paintings by Mexican artist Rufino Tamayo to several Soviet cities is also contemplated.

Regarding the exchange of scholarships, the USSR will grant 94 scholarships to Mexico each year: 40 undergraduate-degree scholarships, 35 graduate-degree scholarships, 5 postgraduate-degree scholarships for academic staff, 10 graduate-degree scholarships for graduates of Soviet higher education institutions, and 2 scholarships for Mexican students wishing to improve their knowledge of the Russian language [all figures as published].

Mexico will provide 15 scholarships each year for Soviet graduate students in the fields of humanities and the Spanish language.

El Salvador

Unidentified Men Kill Attorney General Garcia

PA1904145689 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Report by Francisco Valencia]

[Text] We can definitely confirm to you that Salvadoran Attorney General Roberto Garcia Alvarado was attacked by unidentified individuals. Garcia was attacked this morning while riding in his Cherokee, license plate 145348. One of Garcia's bodyguards was wounded.

We repeat and confirm that Salvadoran Attorney General Roberto Garcia Alvarado was killed instantly in an attack by unidentified individuals this morning at exactly 0740 when Garcia's vehicle stopped at the corner of Fifth Avenue North and 23d Street.

Individuals in a white pickup truck placed a powerful bomb on the roof of Garcia's vehicle, completely destroying that part of the vehicle. The explosion killed Attorney General Garcia.

We repeat. The attack took place at exactly 0740 when Garcia's Cherokee stopped at the corner of Fifth Avenue North and 23d Street. Individuals in a white pickup truck placed a bomb on the roof of the car, killing Attorney General Garcia instantly.

FMLN Accused of Killing

PA1904152589 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1205 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Statement by Legislative Assembly President Ricardo Alvarenga Valdivieso on the killing of Attorney General Roberto Garcia in San Salvador on 19 April—recorded]

[Text] The attorney general was a man who accepted the challenge that the law must be respected here, there must be a strong democracy here, and there must be a lasting peace and tranquillity here. Unfortunately, [words indistinct]. We repeat: The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and all its front groups are responsible for all this; those of us who are determined to have freedom and peace in this country will continue fighting, but will do so peacefully, not with war.

Cristiani Condemns Killing

PA1904180089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1631 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President-elect Alfredo Cristiani condemned the terrorist killing of Attorney General Roberto Garcia Alvarado and accused the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) of the crime.

Legislative Assembly President Ricardo Valdivieso and Vice President-elect Francisco Merino also stated that the death of the attorney general was caused by what Valdivieso termed the guerrillas' "irrational violence."

Garcia Alvarado, 56, was killed when a bomb placed by urban guerrillas on his vehicle exploded as it came to a halt at an intersection in downtown San Salvador.

"We have to condemn this incident, it is a guerrilla act," Alfredo Cristiani, Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) president-elect, who will replace Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte on 1 June, stated.

Cristiani said that "these are the risks faced by someone who enforces the law." He noted that "the guerrillas' irrational attitude makes it increasingly difficult to believe they want peace."

According to Cristiani, the attack took place because Attorney General Garcia Alvarado warned that "he would take measures against urban terrorists."

Vice President-elect Francisco Merino said that when the attorney general's car stopped at a light on a street in downtown San Salvador, an individual placed a bomb on the roof of the armored vehicle.

"The driver told the attorney general about the bomb. The vehicle swerved and the bomb exploded, causing the top of the vehicle to collapse on the attorney general's head," Merino stated.

Guerrillas attacked Merino's home in San Salvador 5 days ago with explosives. There were seven children, including four of the vice president's children, in the home at the time. A 15-year-old niece of Merino's was injured.

"These incidents," Cristiani said, "frankly cause us to become more aware of the fact that we must not permit terrorist actions to occur in El Salvador."

The president-elect ruled out the possibility that these attacks "will prevent the inaugural ceremony from taking place."

"I am certain that the inauguration will be on 1 June. We will not jump overboard or make a run for it. We know what we are up against and will go on," he stated.

Cristiani said the guerrilla attacks are intended to prompt a government and military reaction so the FMLN can "exploit it" abroad to "politically isolate the new government."

Ricardo Valdivieso, president of the Legislative Assembly and an ARENA leader, said the FMLN and its "front" groups are responsible for the "irrational violence that killed Attorney General Garcia."

Valdivieso said the Legislative Assembly will approve drastic laws to "halt the wave of violence." He said the attorney general "was apolitical, worked for justice, and did not deserve to die like that."

According to the police and Garcia Alvarado's driver, who escaped unscathed, the attorney general was traveling with two bodyguards. One of them was injured.

The attorney general's body was destroyed by the bomb that exploded over his head.

No group has claimed credit for the attack yet, but police sources claim it "is characteristic of the FMLN urban commandos."

The same sources confirmed that Garcia Alvarado had been threatened on several occasions by Salvadoran urban guerrillas.

Moments after the attack, Army and police units cordoned off the area and began an all-out military operation to find those responsible.

Garcia Alvarado, father of six, was appointed attorney general on 23 December 1988. He was considered to be closely linked to ARENA. On several occasions, however, he said he did not represent any party and was carrying out his job "impartially and with the intention of enforcing the country's laws."

Group Claims Responsibility

PA2004051689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0428 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Apr (AFP)—A self-named ultra-right wing commando unit, the "Gerardo Barrios Civic Force" [Fuerza Civica Gerardo Barrios] tonight claimed responsibility for the dynamite attack that killed Salvadoran Attorney General Roberto Garcia today.

In telephone calls to local radio stations, the commando unit stated: "We were born through antisubversive combat; however, we are an essentially democratic force, because we have come to confront the monopolizing and totalitarian efforts of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], which will be the ruling party as of 1 June."

The new "death squad" spokesman said: "We are confronting the worthless (vice president-elect) Merino and (ARENA leader) D'Aubuisson. We recently gave them a dissuasive signal, and today we gave them a second one..."

Last week Francisco Merino's residence was the target of a bomb attack, though there were no casualties [as received].

"We are against every act of intrigue and conspiracy within the Armed Forces and current acts of repression by the state security organizations, as well as all actions against democratic institutions like the Christian Democracy."

In conclusion, the communique adds a veiled threat against Francisco Guerrero, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, who is charged with a "fifth column action."

This is the second "death squad" that has made its appearance in the country in less than a week.

On 14 April, shortly after the attack on Merino, the self-styled "Guardians of Free Enterprise" made its appearance and harshly criticized the chiefs of the Salvadoran Army who "obey pressures from abroad."

Cristiani Discusses Possible State of Siege

PA1904202789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The new Salvadoran Government that is to take office on 1 June might implement a state of siege to prevent urban violence, President-elect Alfredo Cristiani announced today when he condemned this morning's murder of Attorney General Roberto Garcia Alvarado by unidentified individuals in San Salvador. If urban violence continues, we must obviously resort to legal mechanisms. The strongest would be a state of siege, but if the situation demands it, we will have no other choice, Cristiani told a group of foreign reporters with whom he was meeting at the time he learned of the murder.

Although the guerrillas have not yet claimed credit for the murder of the attorney general, the future Salvadoran president said that everything seems to indicate that the attorney general was murdered by Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] rebels. Dr Roberto Garcia Alvarado was killed at 0735 this morning when alleged FMLN urban commandos placed a powerful bomb on his armored car. We now bring you a recording of part of Cristiani's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] Frankly, I think all of this points out the need there is in the country for not allowing these terrorist actions; we must try to counter them; we must try to prevent them. Lives are lost, [words indistinct] justice must prevail. The damage has been done. I think we must prevent this from occurring. Personally speaking, I think the guerrillas did it. The attorney general recently said he was going to take legal measures against the guerrillas. [words indistinct]. We must continue working, even though we regret all this. The law must prevail, and that is what the attorney general died for. We must continue this struggle.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] I am sure the inauguration will take place on 1 June. We are not going to avoid any responsibility. We knew what we were getting into. We are involved in this, and we will continue this. I believe we must analyze the FMLN's attitude. It is becoming increasingly hard to believe that the FMLN is seeking peace and not violence. [end recording]

That was part of the statement made by President-elect Alfredo Cristiani, who condemned this morning's murder of Attorney General Dr Roberto Garcia Alvarado.

Discusses Economy, War Strategy

PA1904194189 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0303 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Report by Mauricio Funes—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President-elect Alfredo Cristiani said on the "Good Morning" program today that the country's currency will not be devalued during his administration and that wage and salary policies will be based on supply and demand.

[Cristiani] "First, we do not intend to have a devaluation. Our goal is to stabilize our currency."

Even though economists have speculated that the new Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] government will be forced to devalue El Salvador's currency, Cristiani said that stabilizing the Salvadoran colon does not necessarily imply a devaluation.

[Cristiani] "We think that at this time there is no need for a devaluation. We definitely believe the black market exchange rate is determined by external economic reasons. This is why we must provide solid support for our currency.

"Why do we think the exchange rate is fragile? We think it is fragile because it is supported by aid from abroad—aid from the United States. If this aid ever ended, there would be an imbalance. Second [as heard], there is the substantial fluctuation in foreign exchange, what has been called family aid. If it were to disappear, it would also create another great disparity between foreign exchange supply and demand.

"There is no need to speculate. The black market—regardless of what causes it—is perhaps the best indicator of foreign exchange parity. We think both U.S. aid and family aid will continue."

Even though he has no intention of devaluating the currency, Cristiani said the stigma surrounding such a measure has developed because of past experience. He added that this measure, if it is accompanied by other structural adjustments, could actually bring about positive results in the long run.

[Cristiani] "The stigma results from the fact that this was a mechanism used by the Christian Democratic administration. Unfortunately, that administration did not adopt other measures that would have, as a whole, produced a positive result. When you devalue or adjust a currency's value in an isolated manner, without simultaneously taking other required measures, all you do is generate inflation. This is exactly what happened. I think you are right in saying that adjusting the currency to a real value does not necessarily bring about a bad result. If you accompany this action with other measures, a currency adjustment can be useful in correcting problems."

Regarding his administration's policy on salaries, Cristiani said each company will be free to establish the salary levels most suited to its particular situation. In other words, salaries will depend on market supply and demand.

[Cristiani] "We will encourage companies to freely determine salaries. We will not pressure them. Of course, people's salaries should still have the same purchasing power."

Cristiani said the cornerstone of his administration's economic policy will be eliminating the deficit by making reasonable cuts in public spending, promoting exports—thus ensuring an increase in foreign exchange—and by privatizing the economy.

When asked whether his election would bring about changes in how the war is being fought, Cristiani said some changes must be made to counteract the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's [FMLN] new urban operations.

[Cristiani] "We are willing to seek a political solution and to incorporate the FMLN into our country's civil and political life. However, while this is being sought and while some agreements are reached in this sense, we cannot allow the FMLN and its front groups to cause destruction and spread violence throughout the country. We have not taken stronger action because we are seeking a political solution. It is not a matter of promoting abuse or bloodshed. The less blood shed in our country, the better."

Cristiani said that if the FMLN turns its back on political solutions, his government will have no other alternative but to increase military actions. According to Cristiani, abuses and human rights violations must be eliminated. However, he added, we must not go to the other extreme of doing nothing in the face of urban vandalism and terrorism.

Duarte Leaves for Checkup in Washington

PA1904193289 Paris AFP in Spanish 1901 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Apr (AFP)—Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte left today for Washington, where he will undergo a medical checkup at Walter Reed Medical Center to determine the condition of his terminal liver cancer, official sources have reported.

Duarte left on a commercial flight accompanied by his wife Ines, his son Alejandro, and Lieutenant Dagoberto Garcia, his aide-de-camp.

Before leaving for the U.S. capital, Duarte, who will leave office on 1 June, condemned this morning's killing of Attorney General Roberto Garcia, presumably at the hands of urban guerrillas.

"It was a typical act of terrorists, who attack all those who do not accept their ideological and social beliefs," Duarte said. He added that the guerrillas want to take advantage of the upcoming inauguration to "destroy the country's democratic process."

Country's Eastern Zone Left Without Electricity

PA2004032389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Apr (AFP)—The guerrillas' destruction of 30 electricity structures in less than 24 hours has left the entire eastern zone of El Salvador without any electricity today. Official sources say this has been the largest sabotage action perpetrated against the nation's electricity system thus far this year.

A spokesman for the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission (CEL) reported that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) destroyed 18 towers supporting 115,000-volt primary electricity lines between eastern Usulutan and San Miguel Departments.

The CEL spokesman added that the rebels dynamited at least 10 other power poles supporting secondary lines in eastern El Salvador. He described the guerrilla sabotage as being "the most effective one" this year in affecting the power system.

As a result of the FMLN action, El Salvador's entire eastern zone—which includes four departments and constitutes 40 percent of the country—had no electricity today [words indistinct] supplied by a gas plant located in the city of San Miguel.

Furthermore, urban guerrilla commando units last night dynamited at least five power poles in San Salvador and over a dozen more in Usulutan Department.

Meanwhile, according to an official report, crews [words indistinct] to repair the damage and restore electrical power in the next 2 days.

CEL Assesses Damage

PA1904152789 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has caused more than 300 million colons of damage to CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] facilities, a CEL spokesman has stated. He added that the CEL is one of the government organizations most affected by rebel sabotage. The guerrillas have increased their attacks against the CEL in the last few months. The spokesman said there is now a 10-percent power shortage.

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording] The nationwide electrical supply is now 10 percent below demand during the hours of greatest consumption, from 1130 to 1400. If repairs to the transmission lines cannot be completed in time, there will also be a 10-percent power shortage at night. [end recording]

As is customary, the CEL has been using oil-fueled power plants to alleviate the power shortage. So far this year, guerrillas have sabotaged hundreds of transmission lines, causing more than 12 million colons of damage this year.

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording] There was 12.78 million colons of damage to transmission lines from 1 January to 13 April. The CEL's rural electric power distribution network has sustained 716,000 colones of damage so far this year. [end recording]

The rebels have launched one of their largest sabotage campaigns against the economy, the CEL spokesman added.

Guerrillas Condemn Bombing of FMLN Hospital

PA1904212289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Apr 89

["Communique" issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command hereby notifies the Salvadoran people, the international public, the local and international press, and humanitarian organizations that at 0800 on Saturday, 15 April 1989, Air Force units led by General Bustillos bombed and staged a troop invasion into an FMLN hospital in Hacienda Catarina, San Ildefonso Jurisdiction, San Vicente Department. This operation was carried out with 2 A-37 planes, 2 helicopter gunships, 1 Huey helicopter, 1 push-pull [preceding word given in English] aircraft, and 10 troop-landing helicopters.

Air Force troops captured, tortured, and murdered the following comrades in this hospital: (Gustavo Iriosio Casares), an Argentine doctor; (Madelaine Lagadique), a French nurse; and Maria Cristina Hernandez, a 16-year-old health brigade worker. Also captured, wounded, and murdered later as a result of this airborne operation were Comrades Carlos Gomez and (Delia Concepcion Diaz Salazar). They were FMLN militants who were working in political, educational, and health assistance capacities among the civilian population. The heroism and high spirit of sacrifice displayed by the remainder of the paramedical staff made it possible to evacuate the patients, who were receiving medical assistance to which all fighters in all wars are entitled.

In this way, the FMLN General Command flatly denies the Armed Forces Press Committee version that the Air Force destroyed a guerrilla command post. It was actually only a field hospital with its corresponding medical and paramedical staff. This action is another human

rights violation and demonstrates a lack of respect for the hospital, where the wounded are given medical attention, and for the lives of the prisoners of war. This is the third operation of this kind that has occurred in recent months and coincides with the indiscriminate bombings against the civilian population. In this way, Gen Bustillos confirms that he is a true war criminal and for that reason our people demand justice.

The FMLN General Command hereby asks humanitarian organizations to come to the scene to verify the truth of what happened. The FMLN General Command also asks the French and Argentine Governments and people to demand—as the FMLN is demanding—that the Jose Napoleon Duarte government allow the murdered doctors' relatives to claim their bodies and return them to their native countries.
[issued by] FMLN General Command

Guatemala

Cerezo Calls on Country To Fight Violence

PA1804165689 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 17 Apr 89 p 6

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Apr—President Vinicio Cerezo last night accused extreme rightist groups of carrying out actions to cause insecurity and discord among the people.

In a speech broadcast by a national radio and television network, Cerezo asked for the people's cooperation to end violence, which is threatening democracy.

Among the acts of violence, the president listed the murder of Judge de Lara in El Progreso, the wave of attacks on the homes of honorable citizens, the explosion of bombs, and the emergence of clandestine groups that make threats and commit murder.

"There are extreme rightist groups that are not satisfied with democracy. They do not like the Guatemalan people to be happy, that we provide them with more jobs, and that we feel satisfied with a democratic government," the president said.

"These small groups continue to try to create instability; they continue to try to create a sense of insecurity; they are the ones who invent the famous JJ ["Jaguar Justice" death squad]; they are the ones who threaten labor leaders; they are the ones who threaten government officials to make the people feel that democracy means instability and insecurity and that we should return to the past," said Cerezo.

The speech was in response to the increasing wave of protests by political, civic, and business organizations and individuals against the alarming wave of violence that is sweeping the country. President Cerezo said criminals coming to Guatemala from other Central American countries is part of the problem. He added that "there are also other things that create the sensation of instability and violation of the law, like the lack of respect by some media for the president of the Republic and the government's institutions."

He said that "other actions that endanger the stability of democracy are those actions that abuse constitutional rights, such as illegal strikes. The fact is that one person in one hospital can, by legitimately demanding a wage increase, endanger the lives of Guatemalans and the existence of democracy."

In another part of his lengthy speech, President Cerezo said "a judge was murdered recently and now other judges are demanding government protection. I am glad they are making that request. I invite them to sit down with the government to discuss how the implementation of laws to curb crime can be correctly complemented by the judicial branch, which must also serve the Guatemalan people's interests."

"I want to convey to them today the government's firm decision to deal with crime, to forcefully implement the law, and control those illegal actions although they may seem the exercise of a just constitutional right," said Cerezo.

Finally, he appealed to all sectors of Guatemalan society to struggle with the government against crime and for the nation's security.

Three Soldiers Killed in Airplane Accidents

PA2004024189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0146 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Army has reported that a Guatemalan military man died today when his airplane crashed due to a mechanical failure, while two other soldiers died when their parachutes failed to open.

According to an official Army press communique, Air Force Lieutenant Juan Solorzano Rodriguez was killed in Quiche Department, northwest of Guatemala City, when his "Pilatus" plane crashed due to a mechanical failure.

Air and land rescue patrols located what was left of the Air Force PC-7 plane in the northern Quiche mountains. The source reported that the airplane disappeared moments after assisting military helicopters.

For the past several years, Quiche Department has been the battleground of the war between the Army and the guerrillas. The Poor People's Guerrilla Army operates in this zone.

The report further indicates that the helicopters were providing assistance for Tercer Pueblo, a community in Uspantan, Quiche Department, where many people have turned themselves in to the Army after spending many years in the mountains as guerrilla "hostages."

The official communique explained that the airplane was flying over the area when it suddenly lost ground communication. It is thus suspected that there was an accident due to a mechanical failure.

Defense Minister General Hector Gramajo reported that the other accident took place in southern Guatemala. He said that two soldiers died when they jumped from an airplane and their parachutes failed to open.

Gramajo said that the two Air Force members, who were not identified, were killed while performing "routine exercises" at an air base located in the Pacific port of San Jose. He added that the deaths were the result of unfortunate accidents.

* Teachers Pressured To Support DC's Cabrera

32480107c Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Mar 89 p 4

[Text] Teachers in the country's western departments are being pressured to attend functions to which Alfonso Cabrera, a candidate for the nomination to the chairmanship of the DC [Christian Democracy], has invited them in order to obtain their support and backing. This was indicated in a letter sent to this newspaper from Quetzaltenango by teachers Carlos Angel Coyoy and Hugo Frentes Orozco.

They add that Professor Javier Antonio Soto and Mayor Luis Lopez Maldonado have threatened them with transfer to other locations or dismissal.

They add that Professors Raul Orozco, Mario Hugo Miranda and Rosa Merida Barrios, who head the official party, are the ones doing this in San Marcos. In Suchitepequez it is Mr Carlos Enrique de Leon Torres.

Another Report

Furthermore, teacher Juan Francisco Garcia Lopez, an active member of the Guatemalan Education Employees Union (STEG), has reported that "Mr Raul Ralon Afre, the head of the Ministry of Education's Department of Extrascholastic Education, a DC activist and supporter of Professor Alfonso Cabrera, has been involved in pressuring and threatening many elementary school teachers. He told them that, if they did not attend the announcement of Cabrera's candidacy at 1000 hours on 4 March in the Camino Real Hotel, they could consider themselves dismissed from their posts."

In the letter they add that Mr Ralon Afre has been accused of criminal actions. The only thing they are accomplishing with these political measures and actions is to polarize and corrupt Guatemalan society and set a bad example for young people and children, the letter concludes.

Honduras

Guerrillas Claim Credit for U.S. Convoy Attack

PA1904164289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1551 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran guerrillas claimed credit today for the attack on a U.S. Army convoy on 11 April in northern Honduras in which one person was killed, three or four people wounded, and one vehicle destroyed.

The attack on an 11-vehicle convoy carrying U.S. and Honduran soldiers took place 17 km northeast of Olanchito, in Yoro Department, on the northern coast of Honduras.

People have been told that U.S. and Honduran troops are building a highway for military emergencies and civil development in this area.

In a communique distributed in Olanchito, the Morazanist Patriotic Front (FPM) claimed credit for the attack, and said the attack was carried out by the Ramon Amaya Amador Commando Group [Comando Ramon Amaya Amador].

The guerrilla communique stated "the attack was carried out with rifle fire and hand grenades, which neutralized the rearguard of the Yankee convoy and resulted in one dead, three or four wounded, and one destroyed vehicle."

The communique added that "the Yankees refuse to report their casualties so as not to demoralize their troops. Our rifles will be aimed at the blonds from the north who are today trampling on our sacred fatherland."

The Honduran Armed Forces and the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa have confirmed the attack, but they did not mention any casualties, although they admit that the last vehicle in the convoy was "damaged" by an explosive device that was hurled at it.

On 1 February, another U.S. military convoy was attacked in the same area by unidentified persons, without causing any casualties but damaging one truck.

That attack was also claimed by the FPM, which said it had wounded some Americans.

The FPM first appeared in San Pedro Sula in 1979 and has taken credit for several dynamite attacks and rural guerrilla actions.

Ramon Amaya Amador, the name used by the Honduran guerrilla group, was a leftist novelist who wrote about the social and economic inequalities among Hondurans. He also condemned foreign intervention, particularly U.S. intervention, in Honduran economic and political affairs.

Claim U.S. Soldier Killed

PA2004052589 Paris AFP in Spanish
0452 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Apr (AFP)—The leftist Morazanist Patriotic Front today said that it killed a U.S. soldier and wounded "three or four more" during an attack on a military convoy in northern Yoro Department on 11 April.

In a communique sent to local radio stations, the Morazanist Patriotic Front said they attacked the U.S. troops, which for the past several weeks have been conducting maneuvers in the northern region, with rifle fire and grenades, managing to "neutralize the Yankee convoy's rearguard, killing one soldier and wounding three or four.

However, spokespersons for the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate today reiterated that only material damage was reported in the attack against the military convoy.

The Morazanist Front also said that on 1 February, in another attack carried out in Yoro Department, it inflicted casualties on U.S. Army troops.

This clandestine organization was created in the mid-seventies, but its operations within Honduras are sporadic.

Azcona Rejects Nicaraguan Plan for Contras

PA2004010689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2311 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo today said that Nicaragua cannot unilaterally present a plan to demobilize, repatriate, or relocate the contras because that is a "multilateral" commitment by the five Central American presidents.

Azcona Hoyo responded in this manner to a question from ACAN-EFE about the Nicaraguan Government's proposal to implement in 3 months a plan to voluntarily repatriate and relocate the anti-Sandinist rebels who are in eastern Honduras.

The commitment to demobilize the contras, which was agreed upon by the Central American presidents in February, "is multilateral and not solely for one country," Azcona Hoyo told a group of journalists with whom he spoke about his recent trip to Taiwan.

The president believes that "the Sandinist government has benefitted the most" since the Central American presidents signed the Esquipulas II agreement on 7 August 1987.

He stressed that the contras were defeated by the Central American presidents and that this "brought peace to Nicaragua."

According to Azcona, the Sandinists were unable to defeat the contras, but this does not mean, he said, "that we are not happy, because peace benefits not only the Nicaraguans but also us."

"The important thing is that the Sandinist government realize the great effort the Central American presidents made so that there would be peace in Nicaragua and that they also have to contribute their share," he added.

Azcona said that Nicaragua continues to "threaten" Honduras at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] where Managua filed suit against Tegucigalpa in 1986 for allowing the contras in Honduras to attack Nicaragua.

Azcona said that the Nicaraguan suit at the ICJ "no longer makes sense after the agreements we signed in El Salvador," and he warned that "if Nicaragua continues making threats at the ICJ, we will respond to them."

The Honduran president stressed that the 13,000 contras in Honduras are not going to be demobilized with the Nicaraguan plan but with the one that is approved by the Central American presidents.

The president explained that if Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala have a joint plan to demobilize the contras, Honduras will support it, and that if those three countries and Honduras agree on a plan, Nicaragua "will have to accept it because that was the commitment it made in El Salvador."

The meeting of Central American deputy foreign ministers, which was held in Guatemala on 16-17 April to discuss the contra demobilization plan, failed after a verbal confrontation between Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco and the representatives of Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador.

In the end, the representatives of the five countries agreed to meet again in Guatemala on 27-28 April.

The plan to demobilize the contras must be presented at the next presidential summit scheduled to be held in Honduras in May.

However, according to what Azcona confirmed, the summit will no longer be held in May at the request of the Salvadoran Government, which argued that President Jose Napoleon Duarte's health is "delicate" and that the inauguration of new Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani on 1 June is very near.

Army Carrying Out Counterinsurgency Operation
PA1804130889 Paris AFP in Spanish
2349 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 17 Apr (AFP)—Official sources reported in Tegucigalpa that the Honduran Armed Forces today resumed a counterinsurgency operation in the mountains of Yoro Department, in northern Honduras, to try to break up a guerrilla movement that allegedly operates in the region.

Army spokesmen told AFP that "operations are always being carried out in the area," a rugged and mountainous region that authorities feel is a good hiding place for clandestine groups.

The "Terencio Sierra" military engineering exercise, which includes U.S. Army troops, is being held in Yoro Department. These troops have twice been attacked by the leftist People's Morazanist Front.

The first incident occurred on 1 February when a seven-vehicle convoy was attacked with gunfire. The government reported no casualties, but the guerrillas claimed there were casualties. Another convoy of Honduran and U.S. troops was attacked with gunfire on 11 April. A bomb destroyed one of the military vehicles, but according to the official report, there were no casualties.

The military spokesmen said the residents of some villages deep in the Yoro mountains have told the Army that they have seen "strange armed people, with long hair and beards." According to the reports, "these strangers come out of the jungle to obtain food and sometimes even attack the civilian population."

The sources said that so far, government troops have not clashed with any rebel group.

Return of Aircraft to Nicaragua Planned
PA2004052989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish
0341 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Apr (REUTER)—A Honduran Armed Forces spokesman said today that Honduras intends to return to Nicaragua a Soviet-made helicopter gunship brought to Honduras last year by a Sandinist deserter.

Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez told REUTER: "It will be returned, but we do not know when." He added that the Foreign Affairs Ministry is in charge of arranging the return of the Mi-25 helicopter. According to the Pentagon, the Mi-25 is the most powerful attack helicopter in the world. Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Enrique Castro, however, said that he does not know what plans have been made for the helicopter.

Last February, the government granted political asylum to the plane's pilot, Edwin Estrada, who had flown to Honduras in early December. Since then, the helicopter has been kept in a hangar at Tegucigalpa Airport.

According to Honduran figures, Nicaragua has 12 Mi-25 helicopter gunships, which are capable of flying at 340 km per hour. It also has over 50 other kinds of aircraft, also Soviet-made.

The Sandinist Government said that Honduras could be blocking the return of the aircraft as a reprisal for the downing of a Honduran helicopter flying over Nicaragua in 1984. The entire crew died in that incident.

Nicaragua

Foreign Ministry Protests Ortega Visa Denial
PA1904161989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1526 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Managua, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government has demanded an "urgent explanation" from the United States on why Washington denied a visa to President Daniel Ortega.

Official sources, cited today by the Sandinist newspaper BARRICADA, reported that President Ortega was unable to travel a few days ago to the United States, where he had planned to address the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) convention.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry sent a diplomatic note on Tuesday to the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua requesting an explanation from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on why Ortega was banned entry to the United States.

According to the source, Baker said the United States "does not have diplomatic relations with Nicaragua and, therefore, a visa was not granted" to the Sandinist president.

The Foreign Ministry is demanding an urgent explanation of these matters and of Baker's statement to THE WASHINGTON POST on 15 April.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto told BARRICADA that Baker's statement "has caused concern in Nicaragua." He said this is not the first time that U.S. diplomats have said something like this.

"They (U.S. diplomats) have expressed surprise on learning later that formal diplomatic relations do exist between the United States and Nicaragua," D'Escoto stated.

Ramirez Says U.S. Policy Against Peace
PA1904151289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1243 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Unattributed report on speech by Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado to open the 1989 school year at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua in Managua on 18 April]

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado delivered the inaugural lecture of the 1989 school year to the university community gathered in the Ruben Dario Room. Regarding the university's autonomy and the priority given to education by the government, Dr Ramirez said the following:

[Begin Ramirez recording] We must realize we have fewer resources for education now. The areas of defense, the country's security, and health also have fewer resources. The judicial system has even fewer resources than education. Even in difficult circumstances, education is among the sectors receiving the largest amount of financial resources from the revolutionary government, together with the areas of health, security, and defense.

This priority given by the revolutionary government to the education system in general and the universities in particular, despite our limited resources, must be viewed as a reason to be very responsible in using those resources, ensuring they are used rationally, and molding them to the country's priority needs. The revolution has given the field of education in Nicaragua a very privileged position.

We must also discuss giving priority status to certain careers, restructuring careers and schools at the universities if necessary, as we tried to do at the beginning or before the beginning of this academic year. We must also welcome genuine university autonomy as mandated in the country's Constitution. However, this autonomy must be structurally [organicamente] consolidated in keeping with priorities and needs. We cannot view autonomy simply as a formal objective, but as a permanent practice to more efficiently run the universities' internal operations. The revolution's objective is to turn universities into genuine training grounds for cadres who will operate the pulleys of the country's economic and social development now and in the future. [end recording]

Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez also said peace continues to be threatened by U.S. Government policy:

[Begin Ramirez recording] We are at the doorstep to peace. We are not saying we have walked past that door. We feel we are nearing peace because we are nearing that door as a result of the Nicaraguan people's efforts, sacrifices, and loyalty—not because that possibility was gratuitously given to us. The possibility of achieving peace has not been given to us as a gift; we won it through a joint effort.

Thus, our flag, the flag we can now fly with more determination, is the flag of peace—the peace we all have made possible and must now defend from the same threats from the same enemy, because peace is being threatened by the tricks, the sleight of hand, the counterrevolutionary army reserves stationed in Honduran territory, and the policy of the U.S. Government, which refuses to abandon old policies on which this aggression was based throughout the past Presidential term in that country.

While we are prepared to accept peace, the U.S. Government does not seem to be prepared to accept Nicaragua's right to live in peace. Therefore, we must remain alert and avoid being overconfident regarding the defense of the people through the use of arms, political instruments, and diplomatic initiatives to ensure this peace is consolidated and actually becomes a reality. [end recording]

D'Escoto Rejects U.S. Contra Aid Policy
PA1904234389 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Apr 89 p 5

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto by unidentified BARRICADA reporter in Managua on 18 April]

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto informed BARRICADA last night that yesterday's approval by U.S. President George Bush of $67 million for the contras proves that the United States is doing all it can to maintain the contra forces in Honduras for at least 1 more year, and that it is using its well-known "methods of persuasion" to make sure that Honduras will continue to be "willing" to be an accomplice in the aggression against Nicaragua.

D'Escoto made his statements to this newspaper shortly after Leonor Arguello de Hupper, Nicaragua's charge d'affaires in Washington, presented a letter of protest issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry to the U.S. State Department.

[BARRICADA] Mr Foreign Minister, what can explain the fact that several U.S. congressmen, who have traditionally maintained moderate positions against the policy of financing the contras, now support the bipartisan agreement and the law that was recently passed?

[D'Escoto] I do not doubt that many well-intentioned individuals accepted the agreement and voted in favor of the law because they sincerely believe and hope that the U.S. Government is willing to change its policy of illegally using force against Nicaragua.

[BARRICADA] Is it possible that the congressmen who voted in favor of the law actually believe that it will contribute to the Central American peace process?

[D'Escoto] The contents of the law offer several options for using the funds. Some of those options are legitimate and truly adhere to the spirit of the Esquipulas agreement and the Costa del Sol declaration.

[BARRICADA] What, then, is the problem, Mr Foreign Minister?

[D'Escoto] The problem is simply that the law also establishes the possibility of using those funds to continue to fully maintain the terrorist machinery created by President Reagan in Honduras for at least 1 more year, in the mistaken belief that Nicaragua will be forced to beg for mercy and that we will surrender our sovereignty and independence.

[BARRICADA] Given the new climate generated after Costa del Sol and given the solemn commitment made by the Central American presidents to have ready by 15 May at the latest a plan to demobilize the contras, do you really think that it would be helpful for these funds to be allocated to that end?

[D'Escoto] Look, the law leaves that possibility open, and I would like to believe that the contras will choose to truly support the Central American peace process.

Later in the interview, D'Escoto urged the United States to obey the 27 June 1986 Hague International Court of Justice ruling and to abide by the Central American presidents' agreement, which rejects any type of aid for unconventional forces or insurrectional movements, with the exception of aid that is strictly limited to voluntary repatriation or relocation, as Article 5 of the Esquipulas agreement stipulates.

Regarding a letter sent to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker yesterday, D'Escoto said that Nicaragua is still waiting for the U.S. delegates to hold civilized discussions at the negotiating table on the two countries' common security concerns.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister's letter states: "Nicaragua desires and is prepared to work immediately with your government to establish reliable and mutually respectful relations that reflect the friendly ties that unite our two peoples."

However, the letter warns that if this new aid for the contras is intended to provoke Nicaragua and to dissuade it from fulfilling the political agenda that President Daniel Ortega announced in El Salvador on 14 February, "we reiterate our total determination to complete our democratization process in accordance with the terms of the joint statement issued by the Central American presidents at the summit held in El Salvador. These are our revolution's basic goals, which we will continue to carry out regardless of what others decide to do or not to do."

Sends Note to Honduras

PA2004001489 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Apr 89 p 5

[Unattributed report on note from Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras on 17 April]

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has sent a lengthy note to Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras, expressing the revolutionary government's concern over Honduras' lack of willingness to comply with the commitment it made in Costa del Sol, El Salvador, on 14 February regarding the demobilization of the contras.

The note, dated 17 April, reminded the Honduran foreign minister that in "exactly 30 days, in other words on 15 May [as published] at the latest, the plan to immediately begin the demobilization, voluntary repatriation, or relocation of the contras in third countries must be approved."

Nicaragua believes that "the Honduran Government is equally responsible for the contra actions, to the extent that it has involved itself in the illegal U.S. policy that has been condemned by the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. Honduras can be held responsible for the actions of the contras because they are a force that continues to exist because of the complicity, support, and participation of the Honduran Government and armed forces."

Explaining that the Nicaraguan Government understands the economic needs of Honduras, the note signed by Foreign Minister D'Escoto added that "this circumstance can never justify your government leaders agreeing, for a few dollars, to become equally responsible in the aggression and crimes against a sister country."

In this sense and regarding the Nicaraguan suit against Honduras at the ICJ, the note stated: "Your Excellency must understand that the continuity of your policy against Nicaragua can only help make the file against Honduras even thicker."

It warned that "in that great forum, no delaying tactic to try to erase the memory of 9 years of aggression against our people, with more than 60,000 victims and incalculable losses, will work."

On many occasions, Honduras has insisted that Nicaragua should withdraw its suit at the ICJ, and on repeated occasions, high-ranking Honduran officials have also denied responsibility for the contras' activities.

Nevertheless, official U.S. Government documents have recently provided brief reports on U.S. Government bribes to high-ranking Honduran authorities. "The objective of those bribes was to get the Honduran Government to continue to participate actively in the illegal policy of intervention and force against Nicaragua, with clear disregard for the noble and fraternal feelings of the Honduran people."

The Foreign Ministry note stated that almost 2 years after the signing of the Esquipulas II agreement, in which Honduras promised to prevent the use of its territory and to stop all support for unconventional forces, "it is evident that Honduras never had the intention of complying with that agreement."

Assembly Approves Draft Electoral Law Amendment

PA1904181989 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The National Assembly approved a draft Electoral Law amendment submitted by the president of the republic in compliance with the El Salvador accord. Among other things, the articles approved today establish provisions guaranteeing the parties' or political alliances' political activities during the election campaign.

During the election campaign, any political organization that registers candidates will be allowed to carry out political campaigns anywhere, including military installations. The other political parties will [words indistinct] convince:

[Unidentified speaker] "What are you saying if you have only tried to surrender the country to a policy of war and death?"

Ten parties tried to win through the media what they have been unable to win among their rank and file: votes and publicity. They asked for the longest possible time in the media during the election campaign:

[Unidentified speaker] "We are interested in discussing that here. That is insufficient, because it is presumed and we believe that about 19 political parties will participate. Television must be well exploited."

The Sandinist bloc demanded respect for television viewers and that they not be saturated with political propaganda:

[Unidentified speaker] "[Words indistinct] use of Channel 2 later on. That saturation on television is serious from the publicity standpoint."

The Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] will guarantee 30 minutes per day for presidential and parliamentarian elections on the two Sandinist television network channels, 40 minutes on state radio stations, and 30 minutes on private radio stations. The use of media will depend on flexible negotiations and in keeping with the parties' abilities.

It was agreed that the election campaign will last 80 days for presidential and parliamentarian elections; 42 days for the election of Central American Parliament deputies, regional councils, and municipal councils; and 30 days for plesbicites or referendums. The CSE will (?determine) the opening and closing dates of the election campaign.

Of the total state fund for the election campaign, 50 percent will be distributed in equal sums among organizations that register candidates and the other 50 percent will be distributed among organizations that participated in the past elections, according to the number of votes they received.

Foreign donations to political organizations that register candidates must be handed over to the Central Bank or the Foreign Cooperation Ministry. The CSE will manage such funds and distribute 50 percent to the donation's recipient and the other 50 percent to a common fund. The Fund for Democracy, which will help pay for the election campaign's costs, was also created.

Once amendments to the Electoral Law are approved, the new Media Law would be immediately discussed and approved to comply with the El Salvador accord.

Opposition Rejects Reforms

PA2004003689 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Communique issued by opposition political parties in Managua on 19 April]

[Text] The opposition political parties held a news conference this afternoon during which they rejected the recently approved Sandinist electoral law because it fails to guarantee free and fair elections. Comrade Eli Altamirano [secretary general of the Communist Party of Nicaragua's Central Committee] read the communique.

[Begin Altamirano recording] Public Declaration: The 14 political parties and groups, united as Nicaragua's civic opposition, express our total rejection of the electoral law unilaterally approved by the ruling party last night, 18 April.

Our rejection of that law is based upon the following points:

1. The reforms imposed by the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] ignore all of the demands the opposition parties separately and jointly presented to the president and the National Assembly. Also ignored were the recommendations made by the Costa Rican and Venezuelan Governments.

2. The Sandinist electoral law reform allows the ruling party to maintain absolute control over the Supreme Electoral Council and, consequently, over the entire organization and fulfillment of the elections, leaving the opposition without any real control over the electoral process and unable to guarantee free, fair, and honest elections.

3. The Sandinist regime is determined to deny the basic guarantees and conditions required to carry out a fair electoral process, such as general amnesty, abolishment of repressive laws, free organization and legalization of political parties, the right of Nicaraguans living abroad to vote, the moratorium on obligatory military service, equal access to the media, and other democratic conditions that are equally important and necessary to secure the people's confidence in national affairs.

4. Simultaneously with its fraudulent electoral law, the Sandinist regime is imposing a totalitarian media law that restricts the right to freedom of expression and freedom of information.

5. The Sandinist regime failed to fulfill the presidential agreement made in El Salvador, which calls for the formation of the Supreme Electoral Council with the balanced participation of representatives from opposition political parties, to reform the electoral law, and the law that regulates freedom of expression, information, and public opinion, thus guaranteeing the political parties' organization and political actions in the broadest sense.

6. The reforms imposed by the Sandinist regime only guarantee electoral fraud, which is the FSLN'S only means of remaining in power against the people's will.

7. By implementing dishonest procedures to approve the law, the Sandinist regime carried out a campaign of psychological terrorism against the Nicaraguan people to create the proper atmosphere to perpetrate electoral fraud and physical repression against the democratic opposition.

8. Since President Ortega has not displayed the resolve to democratize the country in response to the opposition's political and social demands and its calls for electoral law reforms, the opposition denounces the reforms approved unilaterally by the FSLN as an incitement to war and a product the FSLN intends to export in exchange for the international aid the government expects to receive after President Ortega's European tour. [end recording]

PCDN Deputy on Electoral Council, Opposition

PA1904165289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Interview with Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua [PCDN] Deputy Cesar Augusto Castillo by unidentified reporter on 17 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What is your party's proposal for the creation of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]?

[Castillo] First, I want to tell you—just as we have maintained a frank and open opposition stand in this assembly, we also have to be honest and tell you—that this morning, only a few minutes ago, we held talks between leaders of the various opposition parties and National Assembly President Commander Nunez.

After a negative reaction about certain proposals, Nunez, the highest Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] representative here, told us he would accept the PCDN proposal that I had the honor to draft following a seminar held by party members this weekend.

This proposal states Article 6 should be amended as follows: The CSE will be composed of five magistrates with their respective alternates chosen by the National Assembly from lists of three candidates proposed by the president of the republic. To strengthen the pluralism mentioned in the Constitution, the president of the republic will ask the legal representatives of registered political parties—except for the ruling party—to send lists of qualified citizens to compose the lists of three candidates mentioned in the previous paragraph.

In two of these lists, the president will take into consideration the proposals made by the political parties' representatives. He will give preference to the parties in accordance with these parties' ranking based on the number of votes they received during the last presidential elections.

The National Assembly will choose a CSE president and his respective alternate from a list of three candidates presented by the president of the republic; the three candidates will be chosen by the president of the republic from a list of illustrious citizens who stand out in professional organizations, are known as an asset to the community, and have no political affiliation.

The political parties mentioned in this article will have 30 days to present their proposals after a public announcement has been made in the media. If this is not done within the set period, the president will present the five lists of three candidates to the National Assembly, giving a fair participation to all political parties.

This means the CSE will become a truly neutral organization. The National Assembly, which has a Sandinist majority, will choose two persons proposed by the government and two proposed by the opposition parties, taking into consideration the results of the last general elections.

[Reporter] In this PCDN political seminar, did you discuss the possibility of participating in the elections as a bloc? Or will you present your own candidate?

[Castillo] We talked about party unity. In other words, the PCDN will [word indistinct] this is how direct contacts were made with Dr Hernaldo Zuniga Montenegro to reach a final agreement. We thought we could sign a unity pact in less than 10 days. We, the Conservatives headed by Dr Clemente Guido, are a [Conservative Party] majority within the Assembly; we have 11 deputies. However, we agreed to participate in unity talks with Dr Zuniga even if some of us had to give up political interests, interests in the party's leadership posts. We agreed to everything for the sake of unity, because we cannot defeat the FSLN in Nicaragua unless the opposition is united behind a single candidate.

Ortega Discusses European Tour With Businessmen
PA2004030389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2336 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Managua, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today opened a meeting with approximately 500 state and private business leaders, with whom he discussed his forthcoming tour of eight western European countries to gain financial aid for his country.

The purpose of the assembly, which ends tomorrow and includes the participation of the National Planning Council, is to assess production in the 1989-1990 farming cycle and to form policies to enhance national production.

At the assembly's inauguration, the Sandinist president said that during his 8-country European tour, he will seek support for the Central American peace effort and economic aid to revitalize Nicaragua's precarious economy.

According to Ortega, his European tour—which may begin this week—will help his government's economic adjustment plan "move forward."

This economic stabilization plan urgently needs no less than $250 million to prevent its effects from being highly negative.

Ortega is scheduled to visit France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Italy, Greece, FRG, and Great Britain. According to diplomatic sources, Ortega will meet in Paris on 23 April with President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Michael Rocard, and Congressional Chairman Laurent Fabius.

Communique Claims Contras Attacked Peasants
PA1904213589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 19 Apr 89

["Communique" issued by the Defense Ministry—date and place not given]

[Text] Going against the cease-fire decreed by the Nicaraguan Government, mercenary forces loyal to the terrorist policy of former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez carried out the following action against our workers:

At 2100 on 17 April, mercenary groups attacked a peasant's home near Cama River, northeast of El Rama in the Autonomous Southern Atlantic coast region, killing three civilians and wounding two. The names of the murdered civilians are: Ramon Antonio Hurtado, Ricardo Mendoza Garmendes, and Eduardo Antonio Romero. The names of the wounded civilians are: Tereza Hurtado Lopez and Eduardo Romero Solana—who is seven years old.

Panama

Solis Palma Says U.S. Envoy Could Go to Jail
PA1904193389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1836 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Panama, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma said today that if it were not for the fact that the United States "is seeking intervention," U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis "would be in jail."

"If it were any country other than one seeking to intervene, an ambassador who abuses his office in Panama would go to jail. I am not saying we are going to throw him in jail; let it be clearly understood and do not distort my words," the president told a group of reporters at the end of a meeting with Foreign Ministry officials.

Solis Palma said the United States "recognizes whomever it sees fit" and retains as the representive of Panama in Washington "an ambassador (Juan B. Sosa) who is not an ambassador; he is the ambassador of Delvalle, who lives in Miami."

Washington does not recognize Solis Palma and continues to support ousted President Eric Arturo Delvalle and the diplomats who are loyal to him, even though the Panamanian Legislative Assembly dismissed Delvalle on 26 February 1988, a few hours after he tried and failed to remove General Manuel Antonio Noriega as commander of the Panamanian Defense Forces.

Solis Palma also said that Panamanians will go to the polls on 7 May in spite of the "economic war" unleashed by the United States.

"This is the only country that holds elections while it is at war," the president added.

Government Requires Visas for U.S. Visitors

PA1904190089 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1734 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] As of Friday, 21 April, no more tourist cards will be issued to U.S. citizens who wish to enter Panama. Instead, they will be required to have a visa issued by one of the consuls recognized by the current government, Panamanian Institute of Tourism [IPAT] Director Bernardo Dominguez has confirmed to RPC Radio. IPAT stated this in a memo to all airlines and travel agencies operating in the country, pointing out that as of 21 April, tourist cards, which are used by U.S. citizens to visit the Republic of Panama, will no longer be valid.

The memo adds that U.S. citizens who travel here to perform services provided for by the Torrijos-Carter treaties will enter the country in accordance with treaty provisions.

A Foreign Ministry source confirmed to RPC Radio that there are Panamanian consulates in the United States in Tampa, Florida; Boston, Massachusetts; and New York.

Foreign Minister on Visa Demand

PA2004024689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0151 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter today said that his government's decision to demand visas from U.S. citizens beginning on Friday [21 April] is justified because many U.S. citizens come to "interfere" in the electoral process.

Ritter said that over the past few months a large number of U.S. citizens have come to Panama, "many of them for the purpose of interfering in the elections," which will be held on 7 May.

A memo sent by the Panamanian Tourism Institute to all airlines and travel agencies stated that beginning Friday, U.S. citizens must obtain a "visa issued by any of the Panamanian consuls recognized by our government."

The foreign minister said that this requirement is the same as the one that the United States demands from "the Panamanians who wish to enter that country."

In the United States, in addition to the consulates that support the government of Manuel Solis Palma, there are consular offices loyal to deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who is still recognized by Washington as the legitimate Panamanian president.

The decision on the visas coincided with the opposition's announcement that it has invited U.S. legislators to be observers at the 7 May elections.

Electoral Tribunal spokesmen complained this week that the observers who were invited by the opposition—and who will not be recognized by the Panamanian Government—"will enter the country as tourists when in fact they will carry out other activities," such as observing the elections.

Official Accuses U.S. Soldiers of Harassment

PA1904191989 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Apr 89 p 2

[Report by L.U. de la Rosa]

[Text] Colon—Two U.S. helicopters pursued a patrol car owned by Ramon De La Guardia, honorable representative of Ciricito, in an act of harassment and tried to force it off the Escobal-Culpo Road into a ravine.

Honorable Representative De La Guardia told us about this shameful and condemnable incident which occurred Tuesday afternoon. He said that his car, driven by one of his nephews, was pursued for several minutes by two aircraft which were flying at a low altitude toward the car and trying to force it off the highway into a ravine.

He also said that moments before the incident, a gringo soldier in fatigues stoned the car and broke one of its windows.

The chase ended when the driver skillfully managed to drive into a wooded area off the highway. This prevented the helicopters from continuing their provocation.

De La Guardia attributed the incident to the fact that his car is literally covered with Democratic Revolutionary Party propoganda, which is clearly visible from afar. He added that he is preparing a formal complaint to be filed with the Foreign Ministry.

IRHE's Garibaldo Meets Nicaragua's Ortega

PA1904133489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Apr 89 p 2

[Text] In response to a special invitation from the Nicaraguan Energy Institute (INE), a delegation of officials from the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE] headed by IRHE General Director Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Garibaldo, traveled to Nicaragua to attend the inauguration of the Patricio Arguello Ryan thermoelectrical plant last weekend.

During the ceremony on the lower slopes of Momotombo volcano, where the plant was built, Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega told Lt Col Garibaldo of INE's interest in exchanging geothermal research information with Panama.

Despite the economic problems they are confronting, the Nicaraguan people have been able to build this plant because of their government's determination and perseverance and as a result of international aid, primarily from European countries.

The IRHE delegation was able to carry out an on-site study of the feasibility of carrying out a similar project in Panama.

The Panamanian delegation received excellent and cordial treatment befitting neighboring countries which have been subjected to U.S. aggression.

Endara Says If Elected, Treaties Will Remain

PA2004042489 Panama City Telecinco Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Interview with Guillermo Endara, presidential candidate for the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, by Luzmila Chong; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Chong] The topic of government employees has come up during the campaign. Everyone knows that you have a lot of supporters. How do you intend to please the mass of voters who are currently unemployed and who, no doubt, will want to actively participate in your government?

[Endara] The people do not support me because I have offered them jobs. The people who support me, or rather the people voting for the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, do so out of love of the fatherland and out of a desire for freedom and justice. That is why the people will vote for me. That is the only thing I have promised. I have not promised jobs to anyone. However, I have pledged not to dismiss government employees en masse. I will keep that pledge.

In addition, I promised an administrative career plan for government employees in the new republic, which will be born after the 7 May elections, to ensure that government employees will not be subject to the ups and downs of politics. We will have a government that meets the needs of the 20th century and looks toward the beginning of the 21st century. We cannot conduct a political campaign promising public jobs. I have never promised that. None of my followers will object to my refusal to dismiss government employees en masse.

[Chong] Do you consider the current number of government employees as too high, acceptable, or insufficient? Can you explain your beliefs?

[Endara] The problem does not lie in whether or not there are too many government employees. The problem is that if one dismisses government employees or eliminates public jobs, the number of jobs decreases. We are trying to increase the number of jobs. We will not lower the number of government jobs, because the result will be the opposite of what we want. We are not going to lower the number of jobs; we will increase the number.

[Chong] If you are elected, will you comply with the Panama Canal Treaties? Will you amend them? If you amend them, what would you change and why?

[Endara] We have no plans or interest in amending the current Panama Canal Treaties. When the treaties were introduced in 1977, we pointed out things in the treaties that we found objectionable. We even asked people to vote against those treaties. However, now that they have been approved, now that they have been ratified, they constitute a law for Panama and the United States. We, on behalf of Panama, will abide by all the treaties' clauses. Moreover, we will demand that the United States do the same. We have no plans to amend those treaties. They will remain as they are.

Church Criticizes Caritas Official's Detention

PA2004024989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Apr 89 pp A-1, B-2

[Communique issued by Caritas, the Catholic Church's Social Pastoral Office, and the Panama Archdiocese—date and place not given]

[Text] 1. From the morning of Saturday 15 April, until the afternoon of Tuesday 18 April, Carlos Manuel Lee Vasquez, director of Caritas and the Catholic Church's Social Pastoral Office and Caritas International's correspondent for Central America, disappeared while in the company of three Cuban nationals.

2. The incident caused great concern among members of Lee's family, the Catholic Church hierarchy, fellow employees, and various church groups, who made numerous inquiries at hospitals and detention centers throughout the country, but without obtaining any news regarding the whereabouts of Carlos Lee and his companions.

3. After 3 days of fruitless inquiries, the Panama Archdiocese was contacted by U.S. Embassy officials, who reported the following:

a.) Mr Carlos Lee and his companions were detained by U.S. military authorities on the afternoon of Saturday 15 April, near Fort Sherman, Colon Province.

b.) The reasons given thus far by U.S. military authorities to justify these detentions are based on security considerations, since none of the detainees were ever accused of committing a crime.

c.) On Tuesday, 18 April, as a result of the church's denunciation of Carlos Lee's disappearance, which was published on the front page of LA ESTRELLA DE

PANAMA, U.S. military authorities decided to release Mr Lee and his three companions, realizing that there was no legal basis for their continued detention.

d.) During the time of their detention, neither Mr Lee nor any of his companions were allowed to inform their relatives or any other person of their detention.

4. In light of these events, Caritas, the Social Pastoral Office, and the Panama Archdiocese wish to make the following observations to the public at large:

a.) We are relieved and grateful for the clarification of the disappearance and the release of Mr Carlos Lee and his companions.

b.) We are bewildered by the uncoordinated and inconsiderate manner in which the U.S. military authorities handled this situation, without any regard for the pain and concern of the relatives and friends of the people involved.

c.) We voice our protest at the evident disregard shown toward fundamental human rights, such as personal liberty and the right to have legal counsel, which, in the present case, amounted to an infringement of the rights of a Panamanian national in his own country as well as the rights of three foreign nationals, who had been issued personal identification papers by Panamanian immigration authorities.

5. We regret this incident, which affects and offends all Panamanians. We hope that this latest chapter in the history of our relations with the American States [as published] will help those relations mature and enable us, as a nation, to find the common good of all Panamanians and to have international relations based on the due respect between our peoples. Monsignor Carlos Maria Ariz Bishop of Colon, and president of Caritas, Panama Monsignor Marcos Gregorio McGrath Archbishop of Panama

TEP Law on FDP Voting, Election Results

PA1904160189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Apr 89 p 21

[Decree 13 issued by the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal in Panama City on 18 April]

[Text] Decree 13 of 18 April 1989, whereby public order provisions on election matters are adopted and the voting procedure of the Firemen Corps and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] are regulated.

Whereas:

It is the duty of the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal [TEP] to ensure the liberty, honesty, and efficiency of the election, because only TEP is empowered to protect and oversee all phases of the election process, among other duties, according to Article 136 of the Constitution.

Public authorities are obligated to abide by and implement the orders and rulings by election officials by helping those officials perform their duties.

Voting must be done without interference, in an orderly fashion, and without hampering the work by the election organizations, something the appropriate election officials must guarantee.

For reasons of public order, Articles 7, 8, and 9 of the Electoral Code must be interpreted as clearly establishing the way the Firemen Corps, FDP, and Attorney General Office officials commissioned to investigate election crimes will vote on the 7 May 1989 elections.

Exercising its constitutional and legal powers, TEP decrees:

Article 1. From 2400 5 May until 1200 8 May, all public demonstrations and all political propaganda through loudspeakers and the media are banned.

Article 2. The election organizations (The National Vote-Counting Board, the Circuit Vote-Counting Board, and the Community Vote-Counting Board) are the only ones authorized to provide election results, which must be announced only after all ballots cast at polling places have been counted, and make the appropriate proclamations.

All citizens and media are forbidden to announce partial election results.

Article 3: All liquor stores, bars, recreation centers, dance halls, and other places where alcoholic beverages are sold are ordered to close as of midnight Saturday, 6 May 1989 to midnight Sunday, 7 May 1989.

During this same period, it is prohibited to sell, give away, use, or consume alcoholic beverages. This restriction includes wine, beer, and other fermented beverages.

Article 4: On Sunday, 7 May 1989, election day, the distribution of propaganda material, such as T-shirts, posters, fliers, hats, and similar objects, is prohibited at voting stations and nearby areas.

Article 5: As of the opening of the polls on 7 May 1989, and until election results are announced, the following public order measures will be observed for peaceful and orderly elections:

a) Only those persons duly accredited by the Electoral Tribunal, in accordance with the Electoral Code and Electoral Tribunal regulations, will be allowed in election offices.

b) Interfering with voters waiting in line or blocking access to the polls, particularly by placing obstacles or forming groups that restrict or prevent orderly access to the polls, is prohibited.

c) It is permissable to place cordons leading to the polls and, within these cordons, to form orderly lines of voters.

d) It is prohibited to gather in groups within 50 meters of a polling place, except for those people who have a right to participate, such as the [Electoral Tribunal] presidents, secretaries, members and their alternates, representatives of politicial parties and independent candidates, as well as those people registered to vote at the polling place.

Article 6: The provisions of the previous article will also apply to other electoral offices in addition to polling places.

Article 7: FDP security officers assigned to public order and security tasks at the voting tables and other election facilities established by election legislation will faithfully enforce compliance with public order provisions established by this decree for the elections; they will follow the instructions and heed the orders of election officials at the voting tables and election facilities to ensure the normal and orderly exercise of the voters' right to vote, ensure the validity of the elections, and cooperate with election officials as required.

Article 8: Members of the Firemen' Corps, FDP, and Public Prosecutor's Office who are tasked with investigating election crimes will vote on 7 May 1989 in one of the following ways:

a. If they are listed on the final election register at the corresponding table.

b. If they are not listed on the final election register at the corresponding table but are listed on the final election register in the following cases:

1. After the voting period is over, they can vote at the specific voting table where they are carrying out their duties or at any voting table in the facility where they carrying out their duties;

2. At any time during the voting period, if they are working a shift that allows them to vote at their corresponding tables, they will be able to vote at the table closest to where they are on duty on election day, but only after identifying themselves.

In such cases, the voting table chairman will order the addition to that table's election register of the name, identity card number, and identification of those institutions' members.

Article 9: Violations of this decree will be punished as election crimes or infractions, as the case may be.

Article 10: This decree will be in effect upon its promulgation.
To be promulgated, published, and executed

Issued in Panama City on 18 April 1989
Yolanda P. de Rodriguez—magistrate, president
Luis Carlos Chen—magistrate, vice president
Aurelio Correa E.—magistrate
Carlos A. Bonilla Garcia—secretary general

Government Accused of Preparing Election Fraud

PA1904201189 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Santo Domingo, Costa Rica—Three leaders of the Panamanian Civic Crusade said in Santo Domingo today that the Panamanian Government is preparing a fraud for the 7 May presidential elections.

Panamanian journalist Luis Estribi, Manuel Burgos, and Roberto Brenes, members of the Civic Crusade executive committee, said the Panamanian regime will use all available means to support official candidate Carlos Duque.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega has full control over the Panamanian media. Only his voice and that of his supporters are heard through the media, Estribi said.

According to Estribi, Noriega wrested the legal status from four political parties, including that of the Authentic Panamenist Party founded by late Panamanian President Arnulfo Arias.

Solis Says Opposition Cannot Fulfill Promises

PA2004004489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] This morning, directors of the National Casinos, National Beneficent Lottery, Panama National Bank, National Savings Bank, and President Remon Race Track, as well as departmental directors of the Finance and Treasury Ministry met with Manuel Solis Palma, chief of the executive branch, to discuss the 7 May elections.

The directors of these agencies expressed their views on COLINA's [National Liberation Coalition] campaign.

[Begin Solis Palma recording] The opposition leaders who want to attain power are saying that they will have to pay the domestic and foreign debt. Of course, they must say that because it is one of the commitments of assuming office. If they assume office, they will have to pay the domestic and foreign debt. These are World Bank and IMF demands. But they have also made another commitment. They have said that they are going to bell the cat. But how are they going to bell the cats of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] if they do not have the strength to do it?

A week or 2 after they assume office, they will have all the people who voted for them turn against them because they will not be able to keep the promises they are making to the Panamanian people.

They are making these statements very boldly, but they will not be able to keep their promises. But there is something more important: They will not attain power. However, if they do attain power, they will not be able to keep their promises.

They are, in fact, worried about attaining power under these circumstances, because, it is said, the FDP would stage a completely justified coup d'etat as a result of an uprising by the Panamanian masses. We would again be at the starting point of a cycle begun back in 1968 with the coup d'etat. The next cycle would take us to the year 2000 and way beyond. [end recording]

Local reporters approached Solis Palma after the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Solis] I believe the election campaign has been peaceful, though the discussions are becoming heated. There have been verbal attacks, but they have not gone beyond that. I think the progress made by the COLINA ticket is evident, and this is what the Panamanian people feel.

[Reporter] One year after the implementation of U.S. sanctions against Panama, what are the main obstacles faced by your administration?

[Solis] I think that the freezing of funds has prevented us from meeting some urgent demands of the people. However, we have been able to move forward and, in the long run, we will have funds that we were forced to save and that will help us begin large investment projects. Otherwise, perhaps, we would not have saved these funds. I am not praising the measure. I think it is criminal, unjust, illegal, and arbitrary. However, we will see a bright side to all this once the hard times are over.

[Reporter] Mr. President, when will the national government pay the first part of the 13th-month bonus?

[Solis] When [Finance Minister Orville] Goodin left the meeting, it was because he had to attend another meeting to reach a final agreement with the FENASEP [National Federation of Associations of Public Employees] groups and the Coordinating Board of State Workers' Unions. I will tell you about the agreements that we will reach and implement after that meeting is held. One way or another, I do not believe that it will be later than the first few days of May, when we will distribute the documents that must be delivered and the proportional payment that must be made. However, the details about percentages and all that—we are thinking of paying a portion in cash so that employees can cover public services—will be agreed on today. The rest will be paid in bonds or notes. The way to redeem these bonds/notes and all the details surrounding this issue are currently being discussed. [end recording]

Duque on Campaign Trail, Foresees Victory

PA2004051789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Apr 89 pp A-1, B-2

[Article by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Santiago, Veraguas—Carlos Duque Jaen, presidential candidate for the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) ticket, said yesterday that "the extraordinary welcome I received from the people of Santiago yesterday proves that Torrijism thrives here and that the people are certain of a COLINA victory."

Hundreds of vehicles lined up to participate in a festive motorcade yesterday, which went through the different neighborhoods of Santiago District (Circuit 9-1). Along the motorcade's route, COLINA nominees Carlos Duque and first vice presidential candidate Ramon Sieiro were cheered by thousands of supporters crowding the streets to reaffirm their support for COLINA at the 7 May elections.

Duque told journalists: "We have received a great welcome in Circuit 9-1. Torrijism can be felt here. The people, who are here to express their support, realize that they must continue their patriotic struggle until the final victory."

Evaluating his campaign's progress, Duque told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that after 2 months of intense campaigning in Panama's various provinces and just 3 weeks before the elections, "COLINA's victory is unquestionable."

Meanwhile, first vice presidential candidate Ramon Sieiro told journalists that polls reveal that 60 percent of the voters support COLINA. Sieiro, who is the leader of the Labor Party [PALA], reiterated that the eight political parties forming COLINA are united and headed toward a massive victory in the forthcoming May elections.

While touring the land of Urraca [Panamanian Indian chief], Duque and his followers attended a ceremony to inaugurate a park and visited cooperatives and industrial centers. They also visited the neighborhoods of Don Bosco, Urraca, La Primavera, San Martin, the municipal market, and a bus station.

While giving a speech to mark the opening of a children's recreation center in the La Primavera neighborhood, Duque said that his government will pay special attention to providing children with recreation so that they will avoid vices and grow up to be hard-working and honest citizens.

Justo Fidel Palacios, PALA candidate for legislator, said Veraguas cannot avoid a commitment to national liberation. He reiterated that the people from Omar Torrijos' homeland will not under any circumstances allow "anyone to trample on our nation's flag."

Editorial Praises FDP Bond With People

PA1904172189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "A Date With Our Uniformed Brothers"]

[Text] A Vietnamese proverb wisely says: "The Army is the fish, and the people are the water in which it swims."

This means that like the fish—which cannot live out of its natural habitat, water—an army cannot live if it does not emerge from the people and lacks the people's support.

The people and the Army must be bound together as brothers, as inseparable elements of the same social body, to form a single entity: the nation, the fatherland. We fellow citizens must be permanently bound together to form the national state with all its branches and institutions, all under a single flag and a single territory. That is the state. That is the fatherland. That is a sovereign nation.

The current Panama Defense Forces [FDP], after its radical transformation (from policemen wielding nightsticks and whistles, not at the service of the fatherland or forming an entity with it, supporting it, and as part of it, but as a spurious appendix), walks shoulder to shoulder alongside the people. It is no longer only a poetic description [metafora] to say "they are the uniformed people," at the service of the best interests of the national community.

That is why—despite the repeated attacks by the traitors [antipatria], the servile lackeys of the blond oppressor—those inseparable elements of the authentic fatherland, the people and the FDP, as the fish and water, are becoming even closer in the face of adverse situations. They have become giants in front of the enemy, forming a single front in defense of their national survival, their life as a nation, as a sovereign state—not to do so is to die; it is to allow the water to be taken away from the fish, to allow the Army to be separated from its vital element: the people.

At 1400 on 21 April, the Panamanian people will march along Central Avenue from Porras Plaza to Santa Ana Park to reiterate to the world that they stand staunchly alongside the Army.

The friends of the FDP, the true people, who are not servile and do not kneel—as does the oligarchy, which has surrendered its body and soul to the oppressive gringos—are ready to march alongside the "uniformed people," like a fish in water, to say PRESENT at this historic date with our brothers, who have never set conditions on the fatherland.

Weekly Review of Political Situation

PA20040150

[Editorial Report] The following is a review of material from Panamanian and regional media related to the current political situation in Panama. This review covers the period from 12 to 18 April and includes some items that have been processed in fuller form.

Relations With the United States

Arrest of U.S. Citizen

During the week in review, Panamanian and regional media continued to report and comment on the arrest of U.S. citizen Kurt Frederick Muse and information concerning his alleged clandestine activities and connections with the U.S. Government. Cuban media, through Havana International Service, featured a report by Nelson Notario Castro from Panama City on 13 April that revealed that Panama's "intelligence services" broke up a clandestine network of radio and television stations in the capital that broadcast "short programs prerecorded in the canal zone calling for disorder and chaos." Representative local comment was expressed in Jorge Montalban's "Political Topics" commentary carried on Panama City Domestic Service on 11 April. The commentary claimed that clandestine radio and television activity is a well-known ploy that "had already been implemented in the Philippines" under the "direct supervision of John Maisto," who is currently deputy chief of mission in Panama. Jorge Montalvan's 14 April "Dotting the I's" column in Panama City LA REPUBLICA said Panamanians cannot let their guard down "because a "network of clandestine stations" is not "that difficult to install," as "the U.S. Army's intelligence command has not left Corozal."

Tax Withholding Issue

Panamanian media also continued to report on the tax withholding measures affecting Panama Canal Commission (PCC) employees. Panama City Televisora Nacional on 12 April broadcast a statement by Solicitor General Olmedo Sanjur, who said that some PCC employees argue that "these measures are illegal," but "Panama's tax code states that taxpayers are jointly responsible along with the withholding agent—in this case, the U.S. Government." Similarly, Revenue Director Ricardo Levy told Panama City Circuito RPC Television on 13 April that "some PCC employees have voluntarily paid their taxes" even though the corresponding amounts have been withheld from their salaries, simply because "they need to get their tax clearance certificates" and "because they are aware of the difficulties the state is experiencing." On 13 April Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA published a letter sent by PCC workers to Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter stating that "they never approved" the decision to withhold their tax deductions and adding that the Finance Ministry's orders to seize their property violates the agreement

that says that "employees of that and other U.S. agencies are not subject to civil, penal, or administrative action under the laws of the Republic of Panama." Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL on 16 April published the text of Olmedo Sanjur's letter to Supreme Court of Justice magistrates on attachment proceedings taken against a PCC employee and the pertinent laws that confirm the legal nature of the order "at a time when the U.S. Government" has "unleashed an undeclared state of war against our country."

U.S. Youths Charged With Sabotage

Televisora Nacional on 12 April reported that three U.S. youths were apprehended by Panamanian authorities as they were pulling out railroad spikes "with the intent of causing a tragedy." CRITICA on 14 April featured a full-page report on the incident, emphasizing that the five U.S. youths are guilty of "sabotage," and the railroad guard has "increased security measures at all railroad stations in Panama and Colon." Televisora Nacional on 13 April carried an update on the U.S. youths' case and said that although four were caught, their leader managed to escape. The report added that both the youths and their parents had appeared before a judge. Jorge Montalvan's "Dotting the I's" column in LA REPUBLICA on 14 April accused the United States and the opposition of "using children" to attempt to "derail trains, initiate terrorist activities, and bring to the world's attention the deaths—above all, those caused by the opposition—as proof that the Panamanians are so fed up with Noriega, the regime, Torrijism, and Solis Palma, that they have begun the irreversible process followed in El Salvador."

Election Activity

Foreign Media Presence

Panamanian media carried conflicting reports on the extent foreign media presence and freedom will be allowed to cover the 7 May elections. An article by James Aparicio in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 14 April cited National Information Systems Director Danilo Caballero as saying that Panama will "open all its doors so the foreign media can cover the 7 May elections." The report also cites Caballero's announcement that the decree regulating the foreign media's activities in Panama has been suspended. In addition, Circuito RPC Television on 13 April broadcast a report on a meeting between Panama Defense Forces (FDP) Spokesman Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo and foreign journalists. According to the report, Lopez Grimaldo told the journalists that they no longer must turn in their passports upon arrival in the country. Furthermore, on 13 April Televisora Nacional announced that the government "will offer all kinds of facilities to foreign journalists" who arrive to cover the elections, adding that "a press office will be opened at the Atlapa Convention Center" and that the Electoral Tribunal of Panama (TEP) will "issue identification cards so national and international journalists accredited to the country may move freely around the country" to cover the elections.

On the other hand, on 15 April Televisora Nacional reported that a high-ranking TEP official "has expressed surprise at international reports announcing the establishment of an international news center that would presumably help newsmen and observers cover or watch the Panamanian elections" and "made it clear that it has not been authorized." A similar report was carried by the Domestic Service on 16 April. Furthermore, on 17 April Luis Restrepo's "Vox Populi" column and an unattributed article published in LA REPUBLICA criticized the creation of an information center headed by Allen Weinstein, president of the Center for Democracy, because "this constitute's more U.S. interference in Panamanian affairs" as the center will only "spread disinformation about Panama." On 18 April CRITICA's editorial rejects the creation of a "parallel tribunal" and "the enemy's attempts to create confusion and chaos" during the elections. Also, Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon signed a communique that was published in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 18 April stating that "TEP is the only entity authorized" to "provide information and comment" and "issue final results" concerning the elections. Thus, the ministry will not "grant a permit to any private individual or legal entity that wants to carry out such tasks in the country."

Coverage of COLINA Campaign

Regime-controlled media continued to devote ample coverage to the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) slate's activities and speeches. COLINA presidential candidate Carlos Duque's speech during a 12 April rally in Paraiso, San Miguelito District, was reported by Televisora Nacional, which said that Duque was enthusiastically applauded when he stated that COLINA has taken to the streets and "will continue to do so until it consolidates its victory" and claimed that he will be "the next president of Panama." LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 14 April also reported on the COLINA slate's tour of Cocle Province, where Carlos Duque pledged to "improve the local economy" and preside over "a national reconciliation government" that will "invite the opposition to help rebuild the country." An article by Hermes Sucre Serrano in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 15 April highlighted a COLINA rally in Capira. At the rally Duque is quoted as saying that the United States "will run out of excuses after 7 May" and "as president I will lead my people and demand what belongs to us." Duque also denied reports of human rights violations while noting that "there is a bunch of clowns sowing disinformation about Panama." The Domestic Service on 16 April reported that Duque has pledged to "fight drug trafficking and drug consumption" when elected president, and MEDIODIA on 18 April cited him as saying that "COLINA has a 100-0 advantage" over the opposition, because the people have decided to vote for the COLINA slate on 7 May. Duque

charged Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) with "wanting to annihilate our national culture" in order to impose a foreign one.

Regime-affiliated media also carried substantial pro-COLINA comment. The 16 April editorial in LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL recommends voting for Carlos Duque because "he stands for everything Torrijos stood for," he "picked up the flag that Torrijos bequeathed us," and he "supported all the measures favoring the peasants and humble people." The same newspaper carried a cartoon in which the artist's subject (a male figure nicknamed Petrolon) drops a garbage bag labeled "accumulation of abuses, injustices, arbitrary actions—Made in USA" and tied with a tag that reads "Panamanian Crisis" on Uncle Sam's squashed head. Petrolon says: "It is clear as water! You are the only one responsible for this burden!"

Coverage of ADOC Campaign

Regime-controlled media continued to level charges against and criticize ADOC for its political activities and stance. LA REPUBLICA on 11 April claimed that "opposition followers threw three Molotov cocktails at the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD) office" in Colon and added that "suspiciously, the opposition's Christian Democratic Party (PDC) office has never been attacked." The 14 April evening edition of LA REPUBLICA carried on its front page an article assailing the "U.S. Embassy-led opposition candidates, who have begun a campaign against COLINA officials and candidates." The article said the opposition candidates "behaved like vulgar hags" in Colon, where they "shouted all kinds of insults and obscenities." The article adds that this attitude is characteristic "of those who are accustomed to defeat, such as the servile ADOC members, who seek refuge in this sort of attitude given their imminent failure to attain power." In addition, the "Culture and Sovereignty" column in LA REPUBLICA on 14 April claimed that the PDC is "using the U.S. Southern Command's dough by offering to pay $25 a vote." According to the column, this is because the Southern Command believes, as usual, "that dignity can be bought." The column urged Panamanians to "take the dough and drive the nail into the PDC." (reference to PDC campaign slogan "Remove the Nail").

Similarly, Mario Augusto Rodriguez's 14 April column in LA REPUBLICA ridicules the campaign platform chosen by an opposition candidate for legislator. Rodriguez said the people are "urged to vote for the opposition" given the "horrendous situation" prevailing in the country, including the "lack of potable water." Rodriquez noted that the "only explanations he can find for these absurdly negative statements" are that either that person "has not lived in Panama for the last 20 years" or "he has lived in the Sarigua (desert region in Panama), where the lack of water and overexposure to the sun have affected his brain."

CRITICA's "Scoops" column on 15 April claimed that "there is no difference between ARENA (Nationalist Republican Alliance) in El Salvador and MOLIRENA (Nationalist Liberal Republican Alliance) in Panama" to the extent that the propaganda used "by extreme right-wing member (Alfredo) Cristiani" is "the same used by the pip-afflicted rooster (reference to MOLIRENA's symbol) party within the colonialist, servile, and turncoat ADOC."

LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL on 16 April cited a CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR report that Guillermo Endara "consults with the U.S. Embassy at least three times a week" and that "the opposition candidates cannot boast that they have well-defined personalities." Also on 16 April, CRITICA featured a cartoon depicting Endara as a pot-bellied Don Quixote with U.S. dollars falling out of his pockets. He is shown riding a scraggly Rocinante whose head is that of ADOC first vice presidential candidate Ricardo Arias Calderon and aiming a lance whose point is the head of second vice presidential candidate Guillermo Ford. Endara is also shown carrying a banner that reads "Colony YES" aimed at the COLINA windmill whose vanes bear the names of all the parties comprising the coalition. A puny Uncle Sam is depicted goading Rocinante with a pitchfork.

CRITICA on 17 April reported that Endara's "racism" was clearly displayed in Colon, where he "behaved like the U.S. Zonians." The report added that the people "reacted angrily" and "obstructed the servile leaders' minicaravan," forcing them to flee. Adolfo Benedetti's "The People's Compass" in MATUTINO on 17 April said "election campaign styles have never been as revealing and significant" as the current one, because it is evident that the COLINA slate has "no problem talking with the Panamanian people," whereas the opposition candidates "are afraid to leave the urban centers because both their minds and attitudes prevent them from walking the rough roads of our homeland." LA REPUBLICA on 17 April featured Mustafa's "Lancer" Column, which scored the ADOC slate for insulting the black people of Colon and commented that Endara has revealed his true colors, because he "never went to Colon's poor areas" and always rode in luxury cars without ever making contact with the people.

LA REPUBLICA on 17 April also published an article that alleged that "because the opposition knows it will be defeated" on 7 May, it organized a group of 'agents provocateurs' to follow and infiltrate COLINA activities to try to provoke confrontations. On 18 April CRITICA reported that commentator Luis Manuel Martinez was injured in a car accident, adding that there is speculation that "the accident might have been caused by some political factions "that cannot stand his courageous commentaries favoring COLINA and Carlos Duque."

Dispute Over PPA Symbols

The media also noted that a dispute has arisen among political parties over the alleged misuse of the Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA) founder's name and PPA party

song. Revolutionary Panamenist Party (PPR) President Luis Gaspar Suarez, on 12 April, told Televisora Nacional that "he will personally confiscate all Authentic Liberal Party (PLA) voice and video cassettes" that exploit Dr Arias' name and party song if TEP fails to issue a ruling soon. LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 12 April also carried a report on the PPA members' demonstration in front of TEP, demanding that it issue a ruling forbidding ADOC parties from using Arnulfo Arias' name in their propaganda. In the same vein, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA and CRITICA on 14 April published a letter by Luis Romero Villalobos, head of the Media Directorate, to Circuito RPC Television General Manager Jaime de la Guardia ordering him to "immediately suspend" broadcasting ADOC political propaganda featuring the PPA's song. This material is now being broadcast without music and with a male voice explaining that they have been "deprived of a song that is rightfully theirs," and that the one thing that cannot be silenced is "the beating of the hearts of all the people" who will vote for the opposition. Panama Domestic Service on 18 April reported that PPA Secretary General Hildebranco Nicosia issued a communique protesting the use of PPA symbols in ADOC propaganda.

Arrest of RPC TV Owner

Government-controlled media continued to report on Panamanian businessman Carlos Eleta's arrest and the subsequent actions taken against Circuito RPC Television. The Labor Party (PALA), which was founded by Eleta but which is now controlled by COLINA's vice presidential candidate Ramon Sieiro, quickly issued a communique on 8 April, published in the 11 April edition of CRITICA, denying any ties with Eleta, who was "expelled from PALA" and then "sought refuge in the opposition ranks." Circuito RPC Television announced on 10 April that Finance and Treasury Ministry officials had "unexpectedly" notified "Panama Radio Broadcasting Corporation (RPC) of 31 additional tax rulings," through which RPC is "charged with $1,778,346.06 in outstanding payments" for activities carried out over the past 29 years.

Revenue Director Ricardo Levy told Televisora Nacional on 12 April that he "could not give exact figures" in relation to the Circuito RPC Television case because the law prohibits this, but he said that "a routine investigation has been under way for 1 month." In addition, on 12 April, CRITICA reported that RPC had been charged with embezzlement because it "failed to pay $4 million over 7 years" and "diverted funds to companies registered in the United States" but "which belong to the RPC owners."

Televisora Nacional on 12 April featured a commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez strongly criticizing the "group of servile women" who invited him to a mass for "that poor specimen of mankind Carlos Eleta, who has always exploited the people and who was just caught smuggling cocaine." Martinez criticizes the fact that many are praying for Eleta, the millionaire who "poisoned the country with the media he controls."

On 12 April, LA REPUBLICA cited a UPI report that a U.S. magistrate refused to approve the $8-million bail negotiated between Eleta's lawyers and a Georgia judge because "rich men find it easy to escape." The "Political Coliseum" column in the 12 April edition of CRITICA recalled the Eleta brothers' use of their radio and television stations "to sabotage the people's struggles" while defending their own personal interests. The columnist added that the Eleta case cannot possibly provoke "a national collapse of ethics" because Eleta merely "represents the exploitative oligarchy." The column goes on to note that the Panamanian people have realized that Eleta's imprisonment "is part of a U.S. imperialist plot" "to discredit" Panama and "to perfect the plan for domination, which is doomed to disappear in the year 2000." The newspaper also reports that a General Mills representative arrived in Panama "to investigate" the "possible implications" of Eleta's arrest for that company, where Eleta serves as chairman of the local General Mills branch.

Economic Developments

Effects of Crisis

Statements released at the government, PCC, and private sector levels continued to stress Panama's economic crisis. Circuito RPC Television on 13 April carried statements by Revenue Director Ricardo Levy, who announced that "collected revenues exceeded the government's estimates by 10 percent during the 1st quarter of 1989," but that this was not enough for "the country to be able to normalize its economic situation." In addition, on 17 April, MEDIODIA published a report that the National Lottery's revenues have dropped $71 million due to the economic crisis in the country. Panama's economic crisis was also evident in Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Garibaldi's statement to MEDIODIA on 12 April, which revealed that the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (IRHE) lost "approximately $20 million in 1988" due to illegal hookups. Garibaldi also noted that IRHE's "liquidity problems worsened in 1988."

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA and Circuito RPC Television on 12 April featured statements by Edmond Watchel, president of the Maritime Chamber of Panama, who lamented the fact that the Panama Canal port facilities have been "dangerously neglected" to the point where "there is almost no launch service; the Port of Balboa is in a deplorable condition; several piers lack protection; and there is hardly any equipment to handle cargo in the ports of Balboa and Cristobal." On 14 April, CRITICA published a full-page report on COLINA vice presidential candidate Aquilino Boyd's visit to the port of Balboa "to ascertain what is urgently needed to refurbish that maritime terminal" and to emphasize the

necessity of "preventing the U.S. aggression from undermining the Panamanian's people's will to achieve the goals outlined by General Torrijos Herrera." Circuito RPC Television on 17 April carried a report on labor leader Luis Asprilla's statement on the lack of street lights in the port of Balboa and the fact that the "fleet has been reduced from 94 to 36 vessels," either because they need repairs or because they were taken elsewhere. On 17 April, MEDIODIA reported that a cabinet council meeting approved $1.6 million to purchase cargo-handling equipment for the ports of Balboa and Cristobal.

Juan Benavent, president of the National Association of Finance Companies, is cited by MEDIODIA on 12 April on the finance companies' plight and the fact that they are "doomed to disappear" because they have been unable to obtain loans to continue operations. He explained that one of their main problems is "the delay in getting the amounts deducted from government employees' salaries, which prevents them from paying their debts." In the same vein, Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of the Panamanian Banking Association, told Circuito RPC Television on 12 April that "banking activities at the national level continue at an impasse," that credits are being approved in small amounts only, and that "restrictions on long-term deposits and savings accounts continue." Lasso Valdes noted that therefore "banking activities cannot be described as normal." The effects of the economic crisis on the banking sector was also emphasized in a 18 April Circuito RPC Television report citing Alberto Vallarino, general manager of Banco del Istmo, who said that "a great amount of funds is being withdrawn" because the people are worried about the election results, adding that "if the elections are honest and fair," Panama's future will be promising; otherwise, he cautioned, banking operations will be endangered.

Government Pressure on Employees

During the past week, local and regional media reported that Panamanian Government employees were being pressured to support COLINA in the upcoming elections. On 11 April, ACAN reported that "leaders of the major Panamanian public employees associations said today that the Panamanian Government and progovernment political parties have forced public employees to attend government campaign events." The report adds that "140 public employees" have been dismissed since 31 March, following a warning by Manuel Solis Palma that those "who are not with us (the government) will be eliminated." In the same vein, MEDIODIA on 12 April reported that the Association of Employees of the Commerce and Industries Ministry met with Minister Isaac Hanono to discuss "the dismissal of various employees working in that ministry for having links with the opposition." Minister Hanono was quoted as saying that "this was an order issued at the highest level aimed at sparing faithful employees from any discomfort" they might feel "working beside a person who has maintained a seditious, uncooperative attitude." Circuito RPC announced, however, on 14 April that Manuel Solis Palma "has stated that public servants who have been unjustly dismissed will be reinstated."

Argentina

Vice President on Terrorist Meeting, Campaign

PY1904124189 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1950 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (NA)—Argentine Vice President Victor Martinez has stated that the supposed activity of members of the Peruvian Shining Path movement and the All for the Fatherland Movement [MTP] "for the time being is not very important." He explained, however, that "this does not mean that all security organizations are not alert."

Martinez added that the government "intends to increase the salaries of public employees" and "to suggest an increase to the private sector through the labor-management agreements, but also through a more immediate mechanism."

Martinez made these remarks at the Government House after his regular Tuesday meeting with President Raul Alfonsin. During the meeting they "briefly" discussed the meeting Shining Path members held in Tucuman, presumably with MTP leaders.

He denied that the government is not taking these incidents seriously. He explained that he and President Alfonsin did not discuss the Justicialist Party demand that Facundo Suarez, chief of the Secretariat for State Intelligence [SIDE], resign.

Martinez stated: "We have clearly said that we are not disregarding security. We know that these things begin with a certain indifference that suddenly acquires importance. This is the way it works."

He added, however, that "according to the information we have at hand, we understand that this episode for the time being is not very important, but this by no means indicates that the security organizations are inattentive."

He went on to say that "price control will be encouraged because we believe that there is a need to stop the illegal increase in prices." He said that the increase will be carried out through "the traditional mechanism provided for by the supply law."

He also denied that the economic policy has failed and stated that "we should have a little patience." He denied that relations between Alfonsin and Radical Civic Union presidential candidate Eduardo Angeloz are tense.

Martinez stated: "We are following the development of events and all the opinions. We always criticize because that is how campaigns develop."

He said that Angeloz "has the right, as a candidate, to say what he feels, and we have the right to defend ourselves." He added that "we government officials never said that these are going to be easy times, but we have always said that Argentina was living through very difficult times."

Embalse Nuclear Plant Reportedly Shut Down

PY2004025489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr (NA)—It was learned from unofficial sources that the Embalse Rio Tercero nuclear plant was unexpectedly shut down today. Thus the country has been left without nuclear power, because Atucha I was also shut down and Atucha II is still under construction.

The sources said the Embalse nuclear plant was scheduled to shut down on 2 July for maintenance.

It is not known what caused this unexpected drop in energy supply.

It is not known either if fuel-powered and hydroelectric plants will be able to compensate for the loss of energy caused by the Embalse shutdown.

Brazil

Nobrega Addresses Senate on Wages, Inflation

PY1904133689 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] [Finance] Minister Mailson da Nobrega reported on the Summer Plan in the Federal Senate and said that its objectives were achieved: Hyperinflation was prevented and inflation is being maintained at relatively low levels. The minister reminded the senators that the public was told that the Summer Plan only intended to curb inflation.

Minister Nobrega pointed out that the public sector is the least balanced sector in the Brazilian economy and that if this problem is not solved, inflation cannot be controlled.

As to adjusting the plan, he said that a price realignment will prevent any shortage problem. He added that the government is studying better rules for adjusting prices and it will send Congress a provisional measure to adjust salaries to the same levels as 1988 average wages.

Regarding a proposal made by Deputy Osmundo Reboucas that a salary adjustment be implemented every time inflation surpasses 5 percent, Minister Nobrega said that it is the least problematic of the proposals made in Congress. He stressed, however, that the government is not interested in defending such a plan; Nobrega believes that an automatic wage adjustment harms the economy and the workers, and that its inefficiency has already been proved in other countries.

Although he agreed to an increase in the minimum wage, Nobrega said that the minimum wage has to recover its purchasing power without harming the workers. It is wrong to state that salaries pump inflation, he said, adding that the real inflationary issue is granting wage increases incompatible with the national economy.

New Economic Measures Announced

PY2004025189 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] New economic measures have been released. Frozen and posted prices will be eligible for readjustment every 90 days. This report has been released by Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega, who feels that readjustments must be made in a gradual and orderly manner to end the freeze period successfully.

Frozen and posted prices will be readjusted no more often than every 90 days, and only after an authorization by the finance minister. Salary readjustments and increases above the Consumer Price Index [CPI] granted after 16 January will not be considered in the calculation of the price increase. Public utility rates will not be considered either.

According to the finance minister, prices will be revised in a gradual and orderly manner to guarantee the end of the price freeze.

[Begin Nobrega recording] The idea is to promote a gradual liberalization of competitive sectors, so that at the end of the process the government will be controlling only the oligopolies, the monopolies, and the public utility rates. [end recording]

The government has also decided to advance to April the payment of the third parcel of the compensatory salary readjustment approved by Congress. The payment was to have been made in May. For workers whose salaries should be readjusted between February and July, this compensatory salary readjustment will be of 2.43 percent; added to the other compensatory readjustment of 15.88 percent, this will give a readjustment of 18.69 percent [as heard] of the April salaries.

With the provisional measure signed by President Jose Sarney, the government has created National Treasury Bonds [BIN] which, according to the finance minister, will be governed by the same rules that applied to the OTN [Government Treasury Bonds] during the Summer Plan. The BTN will mature in 25 years, but with interest rates of up to 12 percent yearly. Its face value will be 1 new cruzado at the price of February 1989, but it will be updated monthly in accordance with the variation of the CPI.

According to the finance minister, the creation of the BTN does not mean a reindexation of the economy, because the Summer Plan did not eliminate the indexation.

Navy Minister on Nuclear Submarine Reports

PY2004032489 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Brazil will not be as great as we want unless it masters the most modern technolgies in the world, including those necessary to construct nuclear-powered submarines. Navy Minister Henrique Saboia made this statement today while denying that Brazil is building nuclear submarines in the municipality of Ipero, Sao Paulo State.

Saboia also denied the existence of a uranium enrichment pilot plant, as reported by the press. He admitted, however, that mastering those technologies is vital for the development of any country.

[Begin Saboia recording] The Navy is participating in the Brazilian nuclear program; everyone knows that. We have the (Alvaro Alberto) plant in Aramar, where we produce enriched uranium through the ultra-centrifuge process. We are working to enrich uranium up to 20 percent, which is what we need for the established activities.

To make a nuclear submarine, we must first know how to build a submarine. Second, we must be able to design submarines. Third, we must know how to build a nuclear reactor for the submarine. We have three branches of a single program. I hope that by the beginning of the next century we will be able to build submarines propelled by nuclear energy. [end recording]

New Government Leader in Chamber of Deputies

PY1904133089 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Summary] Deputy Luis Roberto Ponte, from the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] Rio Grande do Sul, is the new government leader in the Chamber of Deputies. He was invited to hold the post by President Jose Sarney during a meeting in Government House. Ponte said that his mission will be to improve communication between the legislative and executive branches.

Chile

Further on 18 Apr CUT-Sponsored Strike

CUT Leader Assesses Strike

PY1904035389 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] In a preliminary evaluation of the general strike organized for today by the Central Labor Union [CUT], acting CUT President Diego Olivares said that it has been an important event. Olivares said that in addition to the call to strike, the workers expressed their support in many other ways, which is very satisfying.

[Begin Olivares recording] We noted a substantial reduction in public transport early this morning, and many workers arrived late for work in various enterprises of the industrial sector. We have also been informed about the paralyzation of activities in various enterprises. Within this framework, and according to the information obtained until now, we can say that from the union's point of view, today's event has been significant and has had the support of various sectors. [end recording]

Olivares referred to Labor Minister Guillermo Arthur's statement that there had been no such strike in Chile today. The union leader said that from the labor point of view it cannot be said that today was a normal working day.

[Begin Olivares recording] By making such a statement, the labor minister seems neither to represent the Labor Ministry nor be the labor minister, because either he is being misinformed—as happened on 5 October—or he is simply not interested in what is happening in the various labor sectors. For example, (?I would suggest) that the minister ask the management of the Sudamericano Bank, where I am president, whether activities were paralyzed between 1100 and 1130, or ask the Development Bank authorities whether activities were paralyzed between 0900 and 1100. [end recording]

Moreover, the acting CUT president urged the workers to continue behaving in a prudent and responsible manner throughout the rest of the day. He recalled that according to the plans, the workers should start banging pots and pans at 2100.

[Begin Olivares recording] I would like to ask the workers to continue behaving in a prudent and responsible manner during the afternoon while observing the activities scheduled by the CUT, such as leaving work early and starting to bang pots and pans at 2100.

We are not responsible for any attempt, especially by government sectors, to try to distort the call to strike, because violence is not the workers' method, and we reject any acts of this nature. [end recording]

The CUT leaders have announced a news conference for tomorrow, during which they will disclose a more complete assessment of today's strike, which, according to the organization, was satisfactory.

Charges Filed Against Leaders

PY2004013089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Attorney Alberto Rios, on behalf of the Interior Ministry, this afternoon filed charges with the court against the union leaders who organized yesterday's strike.

The leaders against whom the charges were filed are: Diego Olivares, Nicanor Araya, Sergio Aguirre, Manuel Jimenez, and Moises Labrana, who belong to the CUT.

The leaders are charged with violating the State Security Law in thier appeal for the ousting of the constitutional government. This crime is punishable under Article No 4, clause A, of the State Security Law.

The leaders are also charged with violating Article No 11, clause 2, in their call for national strikes and for the organization of illegal demonstrations. These crimes are punishable under Article No 6, clause 1 of the same law.

Rios said that the strike was a flop; however, the union leaders are being charged with inciting and promoting yesterday's activities.

The attorney added that there was no reason for calling the strike to demand the release of two leaders since their case has been concluded following a decision passed down by the Supreme Court.

Union Leader on Violence

PY2004015989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Diego Olivares, president of the CUT, has stated that this organization will not take responsibility for the violence, vandalism, and looting during yesterday's strike.

Olivares voiced his satisfaction with the results of the strike. He said it had been a significant event, although he admitted that it had not been a success.

When asked about the statement by Communist leader Moises Labrana that the bonfires and barricades, quote, represented the people's natural means of defense, unquote, Olivares said that he agreed, because those who participate in these events have a right to defend themselves.

The CUT president said that the union will continue to insist on a pardon for union leaders Manuel Bustos and Arturo Martinez, who were banished for calling an illegal strike on 7 October 1987.

When asked about the raid on a medical center in the La Granja neighborhood by an armed group, Olivares said that it had been perpetrated by outsiders who have infiltrated the labor unions. He refused to take responsibility for attacks carried out by terrorist and leftist groups.

Olivares announced that he will request an audience with the interior minister to seek measures to help Bustos and Martinez.

He ended by disclosing that the CUT will stage a rally on 1 May and that the details of this event will be disclosed during the next few hours.

Economic Impact of Grape Crisis Estimated

PY1904182389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0751 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Santiago, 19 Apr (EFE)—According to an experts' survey, Chile will have a 21-percent inflation rate in 1989 and the balance of payments deficit and the unemployment rate will increase due to losses caused by the fruit export crisis.

The new economic projections were disclosed today by the consulting firm "Economic and Financial Survey" [firm name in English]. These projections discuss the impact of the embargo that the United States imposed in March on Chilean fruit sales, an embargo that caused losses initially estimated at $300 million.

Economist Enrique Davila, the president of the consulting firm, has told EFE that "it is likely that the individual consumption rate will decline this year due to increased unemployment and the possible stagnation of the salary index."

Davila believes that the unemployment rate, which reached 6.9 percent in 1988, will soar to 8 percent in late 1989.

In his opinion, if the military government of General Augusto Pinochet does not make an attempt to offset the losses and their impact on the balance of payments, the GDP will decline at least 1 point due to a decrease in disposable foreign currency earned from exports.

Davila added that failure to prevent such a decline in an election year would be tantamount to political suicide.

"A growth rate below the targeted one—ranging between 4 and 5 percent—would only add to the current political problems faced by the government and would raise additional arguments for the opposition to discredit the official candidates," Davila said.

Therefore, Davila deemed it likely that the economic authorities will couple foreign exchange and budget adjustments with the search for new foreign loans.

The measures, Davila said, would include a peso devaluation, an adjustment to the budget, and additional efforts to expand exports of sectors other than fruit.

Presidential and congressional elections will be held in Chile on 14 December 1989. These will be the first elections held in Chile since Pinochet assumed power in September 1973 after overthrowing the government of Salvador Allende.

The report issued by the "Economic and Financial Survey" states that a growth rate below the targeted one would provoke a stagnation in the "improvement of the employment rate and salaries and would tend to delay a number of social programs (health, education, housing) due to insufficient funds."

As a result, the report adds, it can be assumed that the authorities will surely couple domestic measures with the utilization of part of the reserves and will undertake "a search for new loans with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and even creditor banks."

Davila told EFE that before 13 March, when an embargo was imposed on Chilean fruit after traces of cyanide were found in grapes, a $845-million deficit was estimated for this year's balance of payments.

According to the new projections, cast in the wake of the fruit crisis, this deficit now stands at $995 million.

This forecast, Davila said, is based on the calculations made by economic authorities, indicating a trade balance surplus below that reached in 1988, which totaled a little over $2 billion.

The Chilean GDP has increased at an average of 5 percent annually for the past 5 years. It reached 6.8 percent in 1988.

Agricultural Producers Leader on Fruit to U.S.

PY1904032689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Domingo Duran, president of the Confederation of Agricultural Producers, today said that only 50 percent of the Chilean fruit sent to the United States is being marketed. Duran made this statement after meeting with Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz at the Foreign Ministry.

Duran said that they were able to check out the marketing status of Chilean fruit in the United States because the Confederation of Agricultural Producers sent two experts to Philadelphia a few days ago. The experts' mission was to ascertain, on site, the status of Chilean fruit.

Domingo Duran said that his confederation will wage an all-out battle against the outrageous attitude of the United States, which is showing no consideration whatsoever and will end up ruining many Chilean producers. He added that the worst part is that the second-largest Chilean industry, after copper, is being threatened.

Duran concluded by saying that a national calamity of this magnitude is more important than any political disagreements.

Pinochet Dedicates Satellite TV Station

PY1904200689 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The new earth satellite station equipment that was dedicated at noon today by President Pinochet makes Television Nacional de Chile one of the most modern television channels in Latin America.

Pinochet presided over the inauguration ceremony of the new system, which will permit Television Nacional de Chile to be seen all over Chile, including Antarctica and Juan Fernandez Island, by satellite.

The minister secretary general of government and under secretaries of state were also present at the ceremony.

Alejandro Briones, the director of Television Nacional de Chile, emphasized in a speech that this system will enable Television Nacional de Chile to reduce its operational costs and to transmit a sharper signal to all Chilean homes via 121 repeater stations.

[Begin Briones recording] Although it is true that we have imported this technology, it is equally important to emphasize at this solemn ocassion that the satellite station that we are dedicating here today was entirely built and installed by professionals and technicians of Television Nacional de Chile. [applause] [end recording]

Father Florencio Infante blessed the new equipment and the new administration building. He emphasized the important role of communications in society.

Finally, the head of state dedicated the facilities and toured the offices of Television Nacional de Chile.

National Intelligence Center Chief Appointed

PY1804193389 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Report from Government House by Eliana Enriquez]

[Excerpt] President Augusto Pinochet has appointed Army Brigadier General Gustavo Abarzua Rivadeneira as the new director of the National Intelligence Center, CNI. Abarzua will assume his post as CNI chief on 24 April.

The new CNI director previously served as director of the Army Intelligence department. He will replace Brigadier General Humberto Neiva, who will now serve in a high-ranking post in the Army Staff. [passage omitted]

Army Criticizes Junior Officers' Communique

PY1904030989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The Chilean Army has stated that the High Command is the only authoritative source of information about the Army's position toward matters within its jurisdiction.

This is the official communique of the Army Public Relations Department:

The Army High Command has become acquainted through certain news media with an anonymous message allegedly released by a group of junior officers of the Chilean Army.

Even though the purpose of those who wrote the communique may be interpreted as an attempt to express their loyalty and support to the president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Army, and to repudiate various political figures who have been constantly offending the president in public, the Army High Command—which publicly stated its position on 10 April 1989—deems it necessary to emphasize that:

1) The attitude of those who seek to offend the president of the nation deserves our open rejection. However, the Army High Command, made up of its general officers, is the only authoritative source of information about the Army's position toward matters within its jurisdiction.

2) Any officer or enlisted man who may have any concern in this regard should convey his opinions through the appropriate channels in keeping with Army regulations.

Thus, no individual or group of Army members may resort to news media to disseminate their concerns. They should do so through the appropriate chain of command.

3) The Army is a united and solid institution that abides by a chain of command. Thus, it has its own channels to convey to the citizenry any concern that the Army may have.

Signed: Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Hott Krull, chief of the Army Public Relations Department

Details of Electoral Schedule Announced

PY1804233189 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 14 Apr 89 p C-5

[Text] The electoral service has delivered to the heads of its regional offices a document listing the most important dates of the electoral schedule. Among these dates is 7 February 1990, the deadline for the second round of presidential elections.

The second round will be held only if none of the candidates for president succeed in obtaining a majority during the first round, set for 14 December.

The document starts by listing 12 April as the beginning of the special period for registration to vote, which ends on 10 July.

The deadline to submit the names of candidates for president and deputies is 11 July.

The director of the Electoral Service must accept or reject the names of the candidates by 21 July, and his decision must be published in the official gazette.

That same day, registration of the candidates at a special registry will start. This procedure may be carried out within the following 25 days.

The document then points out that electoral propaganda may start on 14 November, noting that all parties will get time on television free of charge.

On 24 November the municipalities must set up panels to be used for electoral propaganda. This same day will be the deadline for the publication in the official gazette of the Electoral Service director's decision regarding the creation of vote counting boards.

Balloting tables should be set up at 1400 on 9 December, and the Armed Forces and Carabineros will start safeguarding public order on 11 December. This will also be the last day for electoral propaganda over radio, television, and other means.

On 11 December the voting information offices will start functioning at each voting station, the electoral boards will distribute the materials to be used during the elections to the polling table officials, and, more importantly, the call for presidental and congressional elections will be made.

On 12 December all electoral campaigns will end, the propaganda offices will close, and the electoral offices will start functioning in each voting station.

On 13 December the Electoral Service should publish in Chilean newspapers and magazines, for the second time, a sample of the voting slip.

Elections will be held on 14 December in compliance with Transitory Article 15 of Law 18700.

The Electoral Service will publish the first provisional vote returns on 20 December.

At 1000 on 24 December the Electoral Court will meet to learn the results of the election, evaluate the vote count, and resolve objections.

The deadline to evaluate the vote count for president of the Republic has been set for 23 January 1990.

The second round of elections for president of the Republic, if necessary, is scheduled for 7 February.

And lastly, 4 March has been set as the deadline for evaluating the vote returns of the second round of elections for president of the Republic, for his proclamation, and for the official announcement to the country.

PCCh Releases Conclusions of 15th Congress

PY1904161889 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Apr 89 p C-2

[Text] In a ceremony held yesterday afternoon at La Batuta Theatre in Nunoa Square, the Cordillera Regional Committee of the outlawed Communist Party of Chile (PCCh) released the conclusions reached during its 15th Congress. Some of the conclusions refer to the ratification of the people's policy of rebellion, the search for the legalization of PCCh "acts," and the use of the electoral struggle in the upcoming elections.

The regional committee also expressed its support for the party's "revolutionary line" through the use of "all types of struggle" aimed at "establishing an advanced democracy" in the country.

The committee spokesman, Patricio Cruz, said that the main issue of the entire revolution is the problem of power. He said the PCCh must encourage "the people to rebel" against this regime, to establish in the country a "system of government that goes beyond a bourgeois democracy."

He added that "the reformist leaders" of the unions—particularly of the Sole Central Organization of Chilean Workers (CUTCh)—must be "replaced," and that a "military policy" must be developed for the party's general strategic planning.

In the meeting, the PCCh supported the need to find a single candidate to represent the opposition, a single list of congressional candidates, and a common program for the antigovernmental forces.

Some 100 people attended the ceremony. Among them were former Deputy Mireya Baltra and Juan Carlos Concha, leader of the Broad Party of the Socialist Left (PAIS).

United Left Communique on Armed Forces Role

PY1404222289 Moscow Radio Magallanes in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Apr 89

["Text" of United Left (IU) communique released on 12 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In view of remarks made by some military sources, the United Left [IU] believes it must clarify some points:

1. The Army is a state institution whose power derives from the military force given to it by Chilean society. Because of this, the Army cannot dedicate itself to carrying out the national transition to democracy.

The historical doctrine of national defense and Chilean tradition assign a nondeliberative role to the Army. This role does not include making political decisions or safekeeping or controlling civilian society through the use of force.

The dictatorship and its sponsors have distorted the goals of the Armed Forces and entirely deviated from their professional role. They have used the Armed Forces to achieve political goals, an action foreign to the military profession. The role attributed to the Armed Forces by the dictatorship is aimed at perpetuating the regime.

2. The Army cannot be considered—as General Medina Lois, retired, said—as the last national recourse to be used to solve institutional conflicts through coercion or the use of force. The use of the Army for these tasks is unacceptable because of the serious and unpredictable political consequences that may follow which could lead to adventurous and coupist acts.

The only legitimate and incorruptible force in the solution of conflicts in a democratic society is the will of the people, which is expressed through the free and unrestricted sovereignty of the people. Any other theory can lead society to disaster and destroy the representative institutions, as unfortunately occurred on 11 September 1973.

To believe that democracy can be reestablished by maiming and restricting the power of the will of the people is foolish and can hinder the country's current political process.

3. The IU believes it is incorrect and unlawful for anyone to act as the representative of each and every member of the institution under his command. Paradoxically, this attitude leads the members of the institution to adopt a deliberative role and undermines the institution's hierarchy. Ultimately, it leads the institution to meddle in specific political matters.

The involvement of military men in politics is only legitimate and necessary when they are exercising their rights as citizens. It becomes illegitimate, however, when it threatens or usurps the sovereignty of the people.

4. It is antidemocratic to transform the military's power into a fourth branch of the state administration. To convert this fourth branch into the most important and powerful national institution, and the only real symbol of national feelings and reality, would be detrimental to the Armed Forces as an institution, betray their professional role, and go against the will of the majority of the people. This is why it is extremely important for the establishment of democracy in the country to redefine the role of the National Security Council and to make it consistent with the current national reality, in which the people will freely elect their authorities.

5. Pinochet's double role as chief of state and commander in chief of the Army is a serious obstacle for the normalization of relations between military and civilians and for a real reconciliation among all Chileans. The regime's ideologues intentionally confused both roles with the purpose of concealing the political responsibilities of the dictator as Army commander in chief. The intention to perpetuate him is increasingly more evident, and the fallacy of his irremovability becomes more inconsistent and anachronistic with each passing day.

6. Chile is heading toward deep institutional, economic, and social transformations. It is on its way to reestablishing democracy and reconstructing a state where people will exercise their sovereignty. The resistance this process is finding among the ultrareactionary sectors which have been in power for the past 15 years will inevitably generate political tensions that can only be overcome with a broad national political and social agreement without exclusions.

Therefore, it will not be useful if the Armed Forces remain in their units; they must join the national social development process which will have urgent needs in its initial stages of democratic reconstruction. The Armed Forces must join this process, not as tutors, but simply as helpers in turning Chile into an honorable country respected worldwide.

The Armed Forces are therefore asked to respect the will of the majority of the people who want the end of the dictatorship as an essential condition to achieve a political system that will bring peace, justice, and development. The maturity and responsibility of the Chilean people will make this possible.

The IU declaration is signed by its political committee.

Central Bank Reports Trade Surplus Figures

PY1904133889 Santiago LA SEGUNDA in Spanish 7 Apr 89 p 24

[Summary] On 7 April the Central Bank reported that in the first 2 months of the year the trade surplus has reached $346.3 million.

Colombia

'State of Siege' Declared on 'Death Squads'

PA2004040989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0256 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Speech to the nation by President Virgilio Barco; date and place not given—live or recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] Furthermore, we have had to struggle against many of our fellow countrymen's skepticism and pessimism. The first thing the government did was to consolidate its bases to wage a struggle against those terrorist groups with whatever firmness and perseverance was required.

We strengthened investigation organizations, we created special public courts. We modified penal laws and procedures. We introduced new measures to encourage citizen participation and to protect citizens. We formed new components to bolster our public forces. Our efforts took quite a bit of time. One cannot provide an overnight solution for these complex problems, with which you are all very familiar.

Once the institutions in charge of maintaining public order and security were strengthened, we concentrated our available resources on solving the crimes committed by those terrorist groups. The results have been increasingly positive, both in the fight against drug trafficking—which is the central focus of many of these terrorist groups—and in the struggle against gangs of hired assassins and private justice organizations, also known as death squads.

Never before had we achieved such positive results. I am sure that even though we will face difficulties and obstacles, we will continue to win this battle against terrorism. To date, we have disbanded 23 gangs of hired assassins operating in Envigado in Antioquia Department, Huican in Boyaca Department, Puerto Lopez and San Martin in Meta Department, La Rochela in Santander Department, and Llanos del Yari in Caqueta Department. These gangs of hired assassins had participated in most of the murders of the country's leftist leaders.

Training centers or camps for hired assassins were also discovered and dismantled in the eastern plains, in the Yari plains, and in Guican. As a result of the arrests of more than 50 members of groups of hired assassins this year, it was possible to gather valuable information to continue the struggle. We now know how these groups operate, who trains them, how they are organized and financed, how they contact each other. We have also gathered evidence that has led to the arrest and imprisonment of group leaders and contacts; these actions will continue.

Furthermore, over 50 hired assassins have voluntarily turned themselves in to the authorities. In addition, peasants living in the zones affected by these bands are tired of so much violence, intimidation, and deceptive maneuvers, so they have approached the Colombian state's intelligence and security organizations to offer their assistance.

In regard to the struggle against drug trafficking, the national government has planned and carried out—through the antinarcotics police—Operations Return, Spring, East, and Lightning to locate and dismantle cocaine processing centers. These operations are being carried out on the Atlantic Coast, in the Middle Magdalena, eastern plains, Orinoco, and Amazonas regions with the following preliminary results: 1,338 persons arrested; 12,107 kg of cocaine confiscated; 67 laboratories dismantled; and 29 clandestine landing strips destroyed. I can state with satisfaction that in 4 months we have achieved as much as we did in all of 1988, which was one of our most fruitful years.

The importance and significance of these arrests and seizures is great. The bands of hired assassins, death squads, and self-defense groups have caused considerable damage in the country. They have assassinated judges and detectives; they have perpetrated massacres that have shocked the people; they have attacked high-level government officials and political leaders, particularly leftist leaders, thus creating an atmosphere of uncertainty and anxiety. They are trying to silence and stop journalists by threatening them or killing those who courageously denounce them.

These groups have become violators of human rights, particularly of the rights to life and to freely state our beliefs. They are trying to terrorize Colombians, undermine our democracy, and sabotage the reconciliation process. These groups are not simply common criminals. They represent real terrorist organizations sponsored and financed mainly by drug traffickers.

Criminal actions are falsely labeled as anticommunist and antiguerrilla actions. In fact, most of the victims of these terrorist groups are not guerrilla members; they are men, women, even children, who have not taken up arms against democratic institutions. They are peaceful Colombians. We face an enemy with a greater capacity for action and better organization than common criminals.

These [antiterrorist] operations will continue; to increase the authorities' effectiveness, a state of siege was implemented today. The first state of siege decree calls for the creation of a commission composed of the government, justice, and defense ministers, the chief of DAS [Administrative Department of Security], the Armed Forces general commander, and the chief of police.

This commission will present a comprehensive plan to combat the terrorist groups. It will be responsible for executing the plan and coordinating actions to combat, eradicate, arrest, and place in the custody of the authorities those individuals who promote and cooperate with the terrorists, whoever they may be. The commission will meet periodically and present a monthly report on the results achieved. The entire police force and state institutions must fully cooperate with the commission.

The second decree creates a special armed body of up to 1,000 men, headed by the chief of police, advised by the coordinating commission created today, and aided by the military forces and the DAS, which will give it all the support it may require.

The third state of siege decree suspends the enforcement of some laws and explains the scope of others. It has been mistakenly said that certain national defense decrees issued more than 20 years ago could eventually be used to grant legal status to illegal self-defense groups.

The suspension of these laws will not in any way hinder national defense, but it will eliminate the confusion and tension that makes it difficult to join efforts against these groups and to defend democracy. It is essential to reaffirm the government's resolve to eradicate the paid assassins and self-defense groups. It is necessary to prevent these terrorist groups from using all types of tricks to evade the law. Every citizen must participate in this struggle because the entire country's future is at stake. It is a struggle that requires the active cooperation of each and every Colombian. The police and detectives need the people's support and solidarity. Any information you contribute may be very valuable.

As I said earlier, drug traffickers are the leading promoters of those ill-named paramilitary groups. I cannot ignore the fact that a few individuals on the police force have in one way or another cooperated with these terrorist groups. Such individuals have betrayed the armed institutions; they are being investigated, and will receive unprecedented punishment from the authorities.

Fellow countrymen: The gangs of hired assassins, the death squads, and the paramilitary groups—whether of private justice, self-defense, or whatever you want to call these terrorists or subversives of the extreme right—are trying to destroy what we must all defend: democracy, justice, freedom, human rights, and the institutions of the fatherland.

The national government has made great efforts to eradicate these groups and to fight drug trafficking. In these efforts, the Armed Forces, the security organizations, especially the DAS, have again shown their professionalism, their respect for the Constitution and the laws, and their support for democratic principles.

Much has been achieved, but we will do and achieve much more. The adopted measures will make the authorities' efforts against this form of terrorism more effective. I know that we are not facing an easy task, but the country has not let itself be cornered by the enemy and the authorities now have more resources to combat this problem.

All of this and the positive results that have been achieved are sufficient reason not to be pessimistic and to hope that, gradually and progressively, these groups will be eradicated and their members and promoters will be punished severely. Good night, and see you soon.

M-19 To Return to Santo Domingo for Meetings

PA1904042289 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish
13 Apr 89 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] Relations between the government and the M-19 [19 April Movement] have taken an unexpected turn. Glicerio Perdomo, the main M-19 spokesman, has reported that he and his comrades who represent the M-19 at "the working roundtables" will return to Santo Domingo "until further notice." They will wait there, as M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro Leongomez announced, for the government to agree to incorporate additional persons and groups into the "dialogue."

Alfonso Caicedo, another authorized M-19 spokesman, noted that "if the government and the Conservative and Liberal Parties agree to hold the roundtable meetings in Santo Domingo, they would be demonstrating sincerity and an unambiguous stand."

"By asking them to go to Santo Domingo, we will find out whom we are dealing with," Perdomo said, adding: "If they do not come to the peace village, it is because they want the peace process to remain vague."

Perdomo and Caicedo expressed disagreement with the government policy of "an outstretched hand with a firm grip" toward the rebel groups. They announced that "the M-19 has not given up the idea of determining the responsibility of the ruling class and the traditional parties."

"We are seeking peace and are trying to get the establishment to accept changes through a concerted agreement," they added.

A lengthy report on the two M-19 spokesmen's comments was carried by the "Point One" program on Inravision's Channel 7. The spokesmen stressed that the M-19 uses weapons to talk politics because "weapons are our loudspeakers."

Perdomo reiterated that "there will be no surrendering of weapons. Colombians will not see the guerrillas lining up to turn in their weapons as they did in the 50's. What would we obtain in exchange for our demobilization?"

Perdomo added that he is in favor of "bringing the ruling class to trial to establish its responsibility for 150 years of government. The concerted effort we are making is not aimed at exempting the ruling class from responsibility."

Caicedo emphasized that "through the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, we have found unity despite our diversity. When we signed the agreements with the Barco government in January, we were putting into practice a collective decision made at the third guerrilla summit."

Perdomo explained that this third summit was attended by "leaders of all the guerrilla groups." He added: "There was a point of agreement: to search for a negotiated political solution to the conflict."

Deadline Set for Rebels' Reintegration Process

WA1904040189 Paris AFP in English 0311 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Bogota, April 18 (AFP)—Multi-party talks on incorporating Colombia's M-19 rebel group into civilian life wound up Tuesday with agreement that the process must be completed by June 30.

Representatives of the government, political parties and the M-19 group, which accepted a truce last month after 16 years of fighting, reached the accord at a "working session" at the national assembly.

No official communique was released, but sources close to the talks said the parties had agreed to continue bi-weekly parleys and to create a general secretariat comprising representatives of each of the delegations.

The Roman Catholic Church was named as guarantor of any final agreement.

The guerrilla group signed its truce March 18 under a peace plan announced in September by President Virgilio Barco, who has said rebel leaders would be pardoned.

The talks have yet to broach the thorny subject of the 2,500-strong group's handing over its arms.

The guerrilla group was formed in September 1973 as a protest against what it said was electoral fraud committed by then-strongman Gustavo Rojas Pinilla. Its original members were dissident guerrillas from other groups, professionals, workers, students and former soldiers.

In January 1974, the rebel group made headlines by stealing a sword that had belonged to Simon Bolivar—who led the wars of independence in most of northern South America—which they promised to use to "redeem" the country.

M-19's most spectacular operation was its 1985 takeover of the Palace of Justice in Bogota. In the military operation to retake the building, more than 100 people died, including six top judges as well as visitors, employees and rebels.

The rebels were reportedly hired by drug kingpins to storm the building and destroy documents to be used in proceedings to extradite the drug lords to the United States.

Talks To Resume 25 Apr

PA1904185689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1747 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Today is the 19th anniversary of the founding of the 19 April Movement [M-19] guerrilla group, and it is being celebrated with cake and liquor in Bogota and Santo Domingo, Cauca Department.

After a 14-day recess because of the death of three M-19 members, the roundtable meetings resumed. The government, political parties, and M-19 agreed to hold meetings until 3 June. Here is a report by Jesus Garzon on this matter:

[Garzon] With new agreements, the M-19, the government, and liberal and social conservative parties resumed the talks within the framework of the roundtable meetings. The dialogue had been suspended on 5 April after the death of three M-19 members in Bogota.

The spokesmen of the various groups and government met for 3 hours, establishing and approving the rules for the roundtables, which will continue discussions until 30 June [date as heard].

By consensus, they agreed to permit the participation of the church, which will watch over the Colombian peace process.

[Begin government spokesman Luis Guillermo Sorzano recording] We agreed to discuss three broad topics: public order, socioeconomic matters, and constitutional reforms. [end recording]

At the end of the meeting, the M-19 said the movement seeks a greater commitment with the peace process despite the incident that claimed the lives of Afranio Parra and two other M-19 members.

[Begin M-19 spokesman Rene Ramos recording] Their killings were not just the deaths of three more people; their killings were a loud message to inform the country on who is involved in the peace process and will continue such involvement regardless of these obstacles. [end recording]

The talks will continue in Bogota on 25 April.

M-19 Leader Interviewed on Peace Process

PA1904230389 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Apr 89 p 3-A

[Interview with M-19 leader Leon Pizarro Leongomez by Maria del Rosario Arrazola at the M-19 command headquarters at Peace Village in Santo Domingo, Cauca Department—date not given]

[Text] [Arrazola] What good has the M-19 done for the nation by occupying the Justice Palace, kidnapping [EL SIGLO editor] Alvaro Gomez, and all the other things it has done?

[Pizarro] It has made the country reflect on its situation. The war affects all of us, and that is the point we wanted to make by kidnapping Alvaro Gomez.

[Arrazola] Why has the M-19 accepted President Barco's peace initiative?

[Pizarro] I ask myself: Why did the peace initiative emerge? I believe, however, that our impact had to be made very strongly in order to get the country out of its syndrome of violence. There are times when the M-19 is expected to perform magic, to pull peace out of a hat.

[Arrazola] What does the M-19 expect from the peace process?

[Pizarro] The M-19 would feel fully satisfied if this process were to end in success. After that there would be new challenges. The M-19 has remained calm during the past 3 months. Who would believe in the peace process if we were not capable of guaranteeing that we could win? There is a great deal of fear in Colombia.

[Arrazola] Will the assassination of Afranio Parra [M-19 leader murdered on 7 April] hinder the peace process?

[Pizarro] No. We have clearly said that we will not sacrifice our gains. We are willing to give up many things in our certainty that we will successfully complete our task. As for the roundtables, they will be held in Santo Domingo. It is a good idea to hold those talks there, because that will add a new dimension to peace. The roundtables will probably be held on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week.

[Arrazola] Will the M-19 become a political party?

[Pizarro] We will not repeat the history of the Patriotic Union, but we believe our ultimate goal is to become a political party. I am responsible for all the men who are with me. I am not saying that no other M-19 member will die. What I am saying is that no other M-19 member will die while all those who share responsibility for peace are indifferent toward that death. I thank former President Turbay for attending Afranio's funeral, but there are many who did not attend that funeral.

[Arrazola] How would you describe the relationship between the M-19 and the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG]?

[Pizarro] The M-19 has stated its beliefs. We are trying to make the CNG fully aware of the political situation. I believe that the CNG is beginning to gain an awareness of the situation. I trust that we can continue to offer opportunities for the CNG to participate in the process. The potential for the meeting among these notables both interests and pleases me. We must participate in a single, unified peace process.

[Arrazola] Two former presidents have been key players in this process: Misael Pastrana and Julio Cesar Turbay. What do you think of them?

[Pizarro] I do not know Pastrana very well. I sent him a letter telling him that, as a former president, he had a great responsibility in this peace process. I also told him that we needed him. I reiterate that. When we met with him, we told him that we expected the Conservative Party to be a predominant force in this process. We hope that it will be.

[Arrazola] And former President Turbay Ayala?

[Pizarro] I believe that former President Turbay wants to make history. That means he wants to rectify his past mistakes, committed while he was in power. Progress can be made with men like that.

[Arrazola] In your opinion, what is the reason for the appearance of paramilitary groups in Colombia?

[Pizarro] The guerrilla movement's excesses led to the appearance of those groups. The excesses of the Army, the traditional political parties, and the government promoted the appearance of guerrilla movements. No one, however, wants to be held responsible. We need the courage to be frank and to tell each other a few basic truths, and then to correct our mistakes. Just as the leftist guerrilla movement has to be legitimized, any other group that appears in the country to defend itself from the guerrilla movement's excesses must also be legitimized. Before the nation, the M-19 assumes full responsibility for all of its actions.

[Arrazola] Would the M-19 be willing to join the Patriotic Union?

[Pizarro] I do not know. We do not rule out any type of alliance. We could form an alliance with the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party, or with other democratic groups. I do not believe that the left has a monopoly on the truth.

[Arrazola] What are the left's chances for reaching power?

[Pizarro] The same that existed some years ago: none. Perhaps a leftist group with the ability to renew itself or leftist groups that are willing to step out of the shadows have good possibilities of reaching power. I do not think that communism has a chance in Colombia.

[Arrazola] Do you hope to become president of Colombia?

[Pizarro] I have never thought of that. I do know that I am playing a leading role now and that I will fulfill that role.

[Arrazola] Would you be willing to talk with paramilitary groups and drug traffickers?

[Pizarro] Of course. I am willing to talk to anybody. It is better to reach a good agreement than to engage in a bad fight. That is what people say. We do not want to talk with drug traffickers in order to legitimize their activities. We have to overcome the drug trafficking problem. That entails holding talks with the United States and Europe. We must share responsibility for this problem.

[Arrazola] Who would you vote for in the 1990 elections?

[Pizarro] For the time being, I would not vote for anyone. One must see presidential candidates fight—not to become the president of Colombia, but to save the country's future.

Authorities Seize FARC Network, Arms Supply

PA1904140589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Report by Miguel A. Florez]

[Text] A huge communications network and a large quantity of weapons were discovered and seized today in what authorities consider the greatest blow ever dealt to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC. The operation was carried out against a workshop located between Fontibon and Bosque Popular neighborhoods in Bogota. The authorities also discovered plans to build a weapons factory near the capital.

According to authorities, a thorough investigation led to the operation, which has prevented a series of terrorist actions that would have been carried out with the seized materiel. The operation was carried out early this morning in several sectors of Bogota by the 13th Brigade, which seized equipment to manufacture bombs and mortars, a communications network equipped with radios, and high-frequency antennas.

[Begin recording of unidentified military officer] It is appropriate to mention that the materiel confiscated today includes an important communications network, Peruvian-made explosives, and bombs. [end recording]

Two men were arrested during the operation: Fernando Suarez Osorio, a mechanical engineer who prepared the blueprints for manufacturing the mortars in a Peruvian lathe, and Alfonso Alvarez Cajiao, the communications operator.

[Begin recording] [Florez] Did you know a FARC communications network operated there?

[Alvarez] No, sir, not at all. I knew there was an antenna, but I knew nothing about FARC. I never knew that. [end recording]

The Army also found a document that reveals the basis of the guerrilla organization's military industry. The document states the need to build a military industry that is capable of meeting the needs of a revolutionary war.

ELN Guerrillas Dynamite Oil Pipeline

PA2004021189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] The Army of National Liberation [ELN] has once again paralyzed the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline. Terrorists placed dynamite on the pipeline at km marker no 168, destroying a suspension bridge, causing a fire, and halting the pumping of petroleum destined for the national production of fuels and the export of surplus crude oil.

In the past 48 hours, the ELN has staged three attacks on this pipeline.

* DAS Head Views Increase in Killings

33480155a Medellin EL COLOMBIANO in Spanish 15 Mar 89 pp 1-A, 11-A

[Text] Bogota (Colprensa)—The chief of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), Brigadier General Miguel Alfredo Maza Marquez, expressed his concern about the recent growth of organizations of hired assassins.

Maza indicated that drug traffickers are behind these networks, and that their economic clout has a direct and broad impact on the increase in the number of troops and their logistical capacity.

"All of the authorities must participate in order to neutralize the phenomenon of hired killings," stated the official to RCN.

Referring to the people who were detained in Guican, Boyaca, in the last few hours, he pointed out that the operation was carried out by a mixed commission of agents from the DAS and several judges.

"These people, the arrested individuals, had been trained at that center and were used in the commission of various crimes throughout the country."

The security agency's investigation covers four departments where the schools for hired killers are presumed to exist.

Pyramidal Structure

This kind of mercenary network has a single pyramidal structure that is dictated by the needs of the drug traffickers and some of the organizations that use the hired guns to protect their interests.

The general confirmed that Oscar Moreno Rivera, an agricultural engineer, and Jesus Antonio Cardenas have been arrested for their involvement in the events of La Rochela. The investigating commission brought them in as captured suspects.

Moreno and Cardenas were questioned last week, and are being held at the Modelo Jail waiting for the judges to determine their legal status.

The same is true of the four persons arrested in Guican, whose identities are being kept secret so as not to hinder the pursuit of the investigation.

Also in the Capital

The general did not rule out the possibility that secret training centers are being operated in the capital. He explained that the criminal analyses undertaken in the case of the Jose Antequera murder reveal a solid criminal organization.

Maza indicated that an investigating commission that was in La Rochela has stated that none of the witnesses who testified in the case has been killed.

"Those who came forward voluntarily to testify are under protection. Some are already beyond the reach of any terrorist action that might be attempted against them."

Nevertheless, on Wednesday of last week a bulletin issued by the General Office of the Police reported that Luis Maria Sanabria, one of the supposed witnesses, was killed in a rural area of the municipality of Simacota in Santander.

Two days later, press reports indicated that another supposed witness, Blas Antonio Varon Pinilla, met the same fate.

A group of men dressed in clothing reserved exclusively for the armed forces was accused of these two crimes. The assassins used R-15 rifles

Finally, Maza stated that at present more than 300 people are under constant protection, and that despite the DAS's best intentions to provide that service, it is obvious that more human and technical resources are needed.

* Leftist Paramilitary Group in Uraba

33480155b Medellin EL COLOMBIANO in Spanish 12 Mar 89 p 3-A

[Text] Sincelejo, (Colprensa)—Conservative Senator Alvaro Leyva Duran revealed here that a leftist paramilitary group has emerged in the area of Uraba, operating to counter the extreme rightist organizations in this troubled region in northern Antioquia.

According to a mysterious letter he received this weekend on the occasion of the Conservative summit meeting on the Atlantic Coast, the unknown organization will call itself "Popular Militias of Uraba," and its sphere of influence will extend as far as the border with the department of Cordoba.

This group, according to the letter, was the perpetrator of some violent acts that were reported early this week in that region, including the burning of three tractors belonging to the Uniban company.

The so-called Popular Militias of Uraba represent an attempt to counter the actions of rightist organizations or paramilitary groups in the banana-growing region, and to respond to their operating methods.

In statements to the local press, Senator Leyva Duran indicated that the new group is based on the traditional concept of guerrilla warfare, and basically consists of civilian residents organized to support guerrillas in response to paramilitary calls.

The preliminary presidential candidate for the Conservative Party stated that "this is disturbing, to say the least, in that it points to a heightening of the conflict and confrontation."

The full text of the letter sent by the unknown organization and the name of the leader who signed the missive were not revealed initially, nor were the circumstances under which the letter reached the meeting place of the Conservative summit.

* M-19 Leader Navarro Wolf on Peace Talks

33480155c Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 6 Mar 89 p 24

[Interview with Antonio Navarro Wolf by Alberto Carbot; date, time, and place not given.]

[Text] Antonio Navarro Wolf, second-in-command of the Colombian guerrilla movement known as 19 April or M-19, stated yesterday that the prevalent political philosophy in the government of his country is oligarchical and antediluvian, and that its main characteristic is the lack of democracy. Although "we have not yet taken the pulse" of the government of Virgilio Barco, he said that institutional compromises have been reached with the current leader.

[UNOMASUNO] Isn't it true that the role the guerrillas have played in the last few years and the rapprochement that has been achieved with the government signify the elimination of the causes or agents that led to the rise of the insurgency?

[Navarro Wolf] The insurgency has two types of agents: objective and subjective. The objective causes are the lack of democracy, the injustice, and the feudal nature of the Colombian regime, as well as an obsolete political

model that is exclusive, antediluvian...The subjective causes are the men who are in power and their auxiliaries in the repressive process. So a peace plan, if it is to be successful, must be based on these two variables. If these causes are attacked, M-19 is willing to go to the limit. We are willing to advance toward democracy with respect to the confrontations.

The insurgent leader, who is partially paralyzed in his lower extremities, stated that obtaining the final objectives is not in conflict with the laying down of weapons and political participation. Laying down weapons does not mean abandoning the revolutionary objective, "because one can be a revolutionary without being armed," explained Navarro Wolf.

In an open talk in which answers were given to all the questions posed by three journalists in nearly 4 hours of conversation with the leaders of the M-19, and in which Rafael Vergara, Gerardo Ardila, and Ruben Carvajalino also participated, the guerrilla commander pointed out that "we are even willing to demobilize if we can achieve the development of a full democracy...and we will continue fighting for national democratization. That is not achieved only at the bargaining table, and it won't happen in a matter of months. It is very simple: The bargaining process is a problem of sides, and this side (us) has said how far it is willing to go. Now we need for the other side or sides to say how much they are willing to give. If the other sides are paying the costs of the war, let's see now how much they are willing to pay for peace."

[UNOMASUNO] In one of the points of the communique signed yesterday, the large number of assassinations of opposition militants was condemned. From this perspective, doesn't it seem a bit naive for the M-19 to lay down its weapons and join the process without any means of defending itself?

[Navarro Wolf] This is not a question of courage or of being brave; it is a matter of reason. Don't forget that we managed, through armed action, to have an impact on politics. Now we are renouncing that instrument in order to overcome the situation. Nonetheless, we want the government, the military, and the Colombian oligarchy to say how much they are willing to concede. It is a simple matter: If mutual concessions are made, this negotiation will result in a final agreement...if not, this will not go beyond a major effort, and there will be no alternative but to return to the mountains again.

Navarro Wolf also came out in favor of the total isolation of the sectors that refuse to participate in the democratic process, and he called upon all sectors to truly commit themselves to this effort.

[UNOMASUNO] Are the insurgent movements of Latin America engaging in dialogue with their respective governments as part of a premeditated tactic because of the alleged bankruptcy of their programs, or are they responding to a true desire to search for peace?

He laughs. His answer is then slowly analyzed. "Look," he says. "The truth is that Latin America is changing so much and so fast that 1980 and the present are two different things. We are undergoing a process in which the political and social life of this region is changing very rapidly. We Latin Americans have a lot in common. In South America, we have seen profound changes in Brazil, where if the left does not triumph the social democrats will. In Argentina, barring unforeseen circumstances, the Peronists will win the elections. In Chile, Pinochet is on the way out and an unpredictable process will begin there. The same is true of Paraguay, where Stroessner has left. In Bolivia, Paz Zamora will win soon. In Peru, Marxism is advancing. In Ecuador the right lost the elections. In Venezuela, a few days after Carlos Andres Perez took office, the most serious riots in the country's recent history began."

"This region is changing. What frame of reference will there be for political action? We must be on our toes, because we Latin Americans are seeking our political nationality."

* Efficacy of Antipoverty Effort Viewed

33480145 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish
5 Mar 89 p 1-D

[Article by Eduardo Sarmiento Palacio: "Restatement of the Plan to Combat Poverty"]

[Text] In the column published on 5 February 1989, I pointed out the slow development of the government's social program. I indicated that the percentage of the gross domestic product accounted for by social expenditures had not varied substantially since 1986, and that this year, no change could be expected. Then, in the 19 February column, I noted that the terms of the contract for the Challenger loan meant that the country would transfer abroad a fourth of the national savings total, imposing a serious restriction on recovery from the low levels of investments seen throughout the decade and any advance in the programs to eliminate absolute poverty. Last week, a World Bank document reflecting a certain pessimism about the progress and the potential of the poverty programs was reported in EL TIEMPO. The government is asked to clarify the problem of poverty, to establish explicit priorities, and to formulate a consistent program of action. Indeed, these are not encouraging reports concerning a government plan which is supposed to be more than half way along in its implementation.

World Bank Views and Criticisms

The statements made by the World Bank show a lack of confidence in the concept and implementation of the absolute poverty program. First of all, a doubt is raised about the validity of the indicators used to define the problem. Next, serious questions are raised about the efficiency of the programs and their capacity to benefit the most neglected groups. In general, it is maintained

that the absolute poverty plan is not advancing satisfactorily. The only area in which some success is recognized is the Infant Welfare Homes (HBI), although the low coverage by this program continues to be pointed out.

One of the most persuasive criticisms in the World Bank document has to do with the concentration of the programs in the cities. Its authors are not unaware that the most serious poverty situations are found in the rural zones, where half of the families are working farms of less than 3 hectares, too small to generate subsistence income. Even so, the recommendation by the bank that the rural poverty problem be resolved by allocating land to all the peasants is incomplete. While it is the simplest and cheapest formula, it does not of itself guarantee a minimum subsistence level. In addition, it would be necessary to establish the financial and technological bases needed to make it possible to exploit these plots in adequate and efficient fashion.

The comments in the bank article reveal a relatively simple view of the poverty problem. Various portions of it suggest that it is more a problem of drafting policies than of resources. The view is set forth that the antipoverty programs could be carried out if some of the existing programs were suspended. Thus expanded coverage for primary education and basic health would be financed by eliminating the subsidies for higher education and taking resources away from the hospitals. At first glance, doubts about the institutional and political viability of this concept arise. In every country it has been found that social expenditures cover a wide range of the population. In addition, subsidies, by their very nature, are vulnerable to diversions which inevitably favor those who do not need them. It is true that this strategy could produce laudable results in terms of equity in expenditures and the capacity to get them to the groups which they want to benefit. In practice, however, it would not have the flexibility to encourage a substantial transfer to the most neglected groups. In the end, the effects on absolute poverty would be marginal and slow. By exclusion, it can be concluded that the possibility of alleviating absolute poverty in any substantial way depends on the ability to increase social expenditures and to direct them to the poorest groups on a priority basis. Perhaps the best proof of this is found in international comparisons. In the countries in the Southern Cone and Southern Europe which have devised basic solutions to the problem of absolute poverty, the part of the gross domestic product for which social expenditures account exceeds the Colombian figure by four points. There is no valid reason to presume that our country can achieve the same thing with less. Moreover, it is easily demonstrated that the transfer of a major part of this sum to the 25 percent of the population which is least favored would bring it above the absolute poverty line.

Some of the difficulties in the social program have their origin in the fact that at no time has an effort been made to establish the financial conditions which would make it possible to expand social expenditures. It was assumed that the resources would be obtained along the way through reductions in expenditures on other categories. Within a short time, it became clear that the programs to combat absolute poverty meant an addition to social expenditures, and this caused serious fiscal problems. As soon as the inflationary surges developed, regression began, to the point that nowadays the only concrete program one can point to is the Infant Welfare Homes program.

Structural Change

It is regrettable that no advance has been made in these 2.5 years in understanding and specifically diagnosing the problem of poverty and identifying its solution. When the undertaking was launched, there was a clearer and more realistic view, in many respects, than there is now. At that time, it was already known what increase in social expenditures would be necessary to achieve a significant impact on absolute poverty, and broad information about the characteristics of the program which benefit mainly the poorest groups was available. There was even a diagnosis of the structural changes needed to enable the economy to adapt itself to these conditions without trauma. It was a secret to no one that the viability and consistency of the poverty programs depended on the ability to increase savings and redefine the budget priorities.

The crisis in social policy has to do precisely with the fact that no progress has been made in effecting the structural adjustments described. Savings not only failed to increase, but have been considerably reduced by the foreign debt transfers. Essentially, the public expenditures priorities have not been modified. The initial decrease in expenditures on energy and mines was offset by the expansion for transportation and communications, and to this was added a substantial increase in the allocation for security. All of this has led us to a crossroads. The government is faced with a dilemma, since it is required to increase social expenditures, transfer a quarter of our national savings abroad, halt the process of decapitalization of the economy, and continue to make sizable expenditures on a deluxe infrastructure. As is natural, these goals cannot be achieved simultaneously. For as long as the current policy of foreign indebtedness is maintained and there is insistence on building the subways, the elimination of poverty can never be more than a statement of good intentions.

Some of the World Bank suggestions would contribute to improving the implementation of the antipoverty program. For example, the suggested specification of the nature of the ailment, improvement of the choice of projects, and expanded coverage of the rural sector would result in greater efficiency and equity in social expenditures. Even so, it cannot be expected that this prescription would provide a radical solution to the situation of the neglected groups. The replacement of the current programs by others with better social content

would not increase the margin enough to effect a substantial transfer to the poorest strata. In order to achieve the considerable and rapid alleviation of poverty, it is necessary to go farther, to increase the social expenditure out of the gross domestic product by four points, and to effect the structural changes which will enable the economy to absorb this without trauma.

Ecuador

Febres-Cordero Summoned, Refuses To Appear

PA1904225089 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Ramiro Larrea, president of the Ecuadoran Supreme Court of Justice, today set a new date and time for former Ecuadoran President Leon Febres-Cordero to appear in court to make statements at a trial investigating a $150,000 donation from the Central Bank of Ecuador to the Ecuadoran Presidency during the previous administration.

The summons states that in accordance with Article No 127 of the Criminal Code, Febres-Cordero is summoned to appear before the Supreme Court of Justice at 0900 on Tuesday, 25 April. The summons adds that a note issued on 10 April from Monetary Board President Avelardo Pachano, as well as the certified copies, [word indistinct], and documents included in that note, must also be presented to the court.

The new summons was released by Jorge Mazon, Supreme Court of Justice secretary:

[Begin Mazon recording] Supreme Court of Justice President, Quito, 17 April 1989:

Please acknowledge that Leon Febres-Cordero has been summoned to appear in court; that Alfonso Zambrano has been appointed as the counsel for the defense, and the regulation established by judicial [word indistinct] No 686 for summons in accordance with document [words indistinct] 7157, 1158, which remain in our files.

Article No 127 of the Criminal Code establishes that the statements you make during your appearance in court can serve both as defense and evidence. Having said this, Leon Febres-Cordero is summoned to appear before the Supreme Court of Justice at 0900 on Tuesday, 25 April 1989, to make statements. [end recording]

Leon Febres-Cordero said today that he will not appear before the Supreme Court of Justice to make statements in the trial investigating the embezzlement of the $150,000 delivered by the Central Bank.

I will not take part in the game of the Supreme Court of Justice, Febres-Cordero said. He reiterated that the country's administration of justice has been politicized. The former Ecuadoran president rejected accusations that he is trying to destabilize the country's democratic system.

[Begin Febres-Cordero recording] I must, as all Ecuadoreans, abide by the law and the judicial system, but the law must be properly applied and the judicial system must be pure, honest, accurate, and nonpoliticized. I will never abide by injustice, and I will not lend myself to [word indistinct] the country.

The president of the Supreme Court of Justice violated the law again, because yesterday he decided that I must appear before the Supreme Court of Justice [word indistinct] on Tuesday, 25 April, to make statements. Mr Ramiro Larrea, Supreme Court of Justice president, ignored the fact that I reside in Guayaquil and that by law and ethics he should have instructed the president of the Higher Court of Justice in the province in which Guayaquil is located to hear my statements. My place of residence must be respected. They cannot claim they did not know where I live, because that is common knowledge. [end recording]

Gallardo Reports $850 Million World Bank Loan

PA1904203589 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Apr 89 p 2

[Summary] Finance Minister Jorge Gallardo yesterday reported that the World Bank will lend $850 million to Ecuador, including $600 million for new projects and $250 million for works in progress.

The finance minister said that the government has allocated $200 million for municipal development, $40 million for agricultural development, and $50 million for financial sector programs.

Monetary Reserves Show 'Steady' Recovery

PA1904172489 Paris AFP in Spanish 1449 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Quito, 18 Apr (AFP)—A statistical report issued today by Ecuador's Central Bank indicates that Ecuadoran international monetary reserves are still in deficit standing. The report also says that as of 31 March, reserves totaled $92 million, which suggests a slow but steady recovery.

According to the same report, in August 1988 monetary reserves showed a negative balance of $330 million, which represented the highest negative rate in the past few years.

Peru

Villanueva on Media Freedom, Party Alliances

PY1804185689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Armando Villanueva del Campo, the president of the Council of Ministers, has reiterated that the media enjoys unrestricted freedom of expression and that this is a sacred right. Freedom of the press is totally guaranteed, he said.

Villanueva ruled out the possibility that he will run in the general elections, pointing out that he must give way to his party's younger generation.

The prime minister also said that the right will have no impact on the future of underdeveloped countries. He pointed out that pursuing a revolutionary path in Peru is indispensable.

[Begin recording] [Villanueva] I am saying very clearly that the left-wing parties that are pursuing a democratic path are closer to each other than the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] is to any right-wing sector. If in the past, many years ago, we agreed with a right-wing sector, it was done in order to save democracy, which was threatened by a military coup...

[Reporter, interrupting] Would you do this again, minister?

[Villanueva] We have a lot of experience, including that experience when we had to agree with the right in order to save democracy because a military coup was near. Then, we reached an agreement with them. The agreement with the right was negative for the APRA and for Peruvian history. Being self-critical, I believe that the APRA must never again ally with right-wing forces, which have been described as being totally reactionary.

[Reporter] You would do this only with the left, right?

[Villanueva] I am not talking about alliances because it is too early for that. However, in my opinion, we want to pursue the path of the democratic left, of a profound revolution expressed by regionalization, the government's participation in adjusting the Peruvian development process, and other expressions, including proposals we have made to business sectors.

[Reporter] What candidate would unite the left? What candidate would represent the left?

[Villanueva] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] No, but we could announce...

[Villanueva, interrupting] You like to make announcements [laughs].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Villanueva] In the first place, I am not talking about alliances because tomorrow you will say that I have proclaimed an alliance. I am not talking about alliances. [passage omitted]

Army, Police Occupy San Marcos University

PY1904214989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1900 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Lima, 19 Apr (EFE)—The Greater University of San Marcos [UMSM] in Lima was seized early this morning by approximately 100 soldiers and policemen, and Rector Jorge Campos Rey de Castro was not allowed to enter.

The Army troops, who are firing warning shots when someone tries to approach the university campus, have their forces camouflaged to avoid being identified.

Light tanks have been deployed on Venezuela Avenue where the UMSM is located, thus impeding the normal flow of traffic in five square blocks around the university.

The 25th District prosecutor, who was at the university, has reported that hundreds of people from the dormitories have been detained.

According to the first reports, the joint forces that invaded the university found a revolver and a shotgun, red flags with the hammer and sickle, and much subversive propaganda.

A UMSM dorm on Grau Avenue in Lima was also seized.

UMSM Rector Jorge Campos Rey de Castro has reported that 300 students were detained during the army-police invasion of the university, the oldest in America.

The rector stated that he was trying to locate the university students who were detained. He called the detentions an "abduction."

"Because of the history of missing people in Peru, we fear that some of these students may disappear," the rector stated.

He added that he is preparing charges in connection with the invasion, and he claimed that the university's autonomy has been violated.

The rector admitted that the UMSM harbors students of all political leanings, including sympathizers of the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla movement and of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA].

He added, however, that those students are not necessarily terrorists and that he could not prevent students from choosing their ideology, because he is "a rector and not a policeman."

Recently, when a red flag was raised at the UMSM, the police forced those who hoisted it to lower it, to hoist the Peruvian flag instead, and to sing the national anthem.

A few days ago a UMSM student movement was made public, a movement whose objective was to oppose the infiltration of Shining Path and MRTA sympathizers into the UMSM.

This student movement began erasing the paintings with which Shining Path and MRTA members habitually "decorate" the walls of the UMSM.

Last Thursday shots were fired at UMSM Deputy Rector Alfredo Torero and his family. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Campos Rey de Castro stated that the people have been gradually prepared for the intervention of the approximately 100 soldiers and policemen who early this morning invaded the university campus.

In February 1986, the police also invaded the UMSM and two other universities. They arrested 800 students, caused serious property damage, and killed a San Marcos watchman.

The Lima Prefecture (civilian government) has reported that 200 students were detained and that at least 20 of them have records of engaging in terrorist actions.

It added that the joint military-police forces found explosives in addition to the weapons and subversive material.

APRA Deputy Linked to Drug Trafficking

PY1904161589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0816 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Lima, 19 Apr (EFE)—In a secret session, the Peruvian Congress today suspended the parliamentary immunity granted to Deputy Miguel Angel del Pomar of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA). Deputy Del Pomar will be tried by ordinary courts on charges of having links to international drug trafficking organizations.

In September 1988, Del Pomar, 46, was detained in West Berlin by the International Police—Interpol—while trying to cash a check drafted from a checking account reportedly connected to an international cocaine trafficking ring.

Del Pomar denied all charges and reported that he had gone to Berlin to attend an IMF and World Bank meeting. The Peruvian Government, however, denied that the deputy was officially representing the country in the meeting.

Informed of the Chamber of Deputies decision, Del Pomar today insisted that he has no ties with any drug trafficking ring. He said he will prove his innocence before the courts.

San Pedro de Lloc Mayor Murdered 19 Apr

PY1904212689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] (Virgilio Curisaga Aznaran), five-time mayor of San Pedro de Lloc and vice president of La Libertad Departmental Corporation, was murdered this morning. He was shot twice in the head, in the presence of his small children and many students.

According to the police, the crime was committed at 0730 in School No 34 in San Pedro de Lloc, when the mayor was in the director's office.

Witnesses have reported that a woman accompanied by a child arrived at the school and asked to speak to (Curisaga). The unidentified woman fired two shots at him as he came out to speak to her.

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Meets Portuguese Leaders

LD1804102789 Lisbon International Service in Portuguese 0600 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] [Announcer] The Uruguayan foreign minister has held talks with Portuguese authorities. He met with Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro and with the president of the Republic. He later met with the secretary of state for foreign affairs. A joint news conference was held at the end of the talks.

[Unidentified reporter] Bilateral issues and the situation in Latin American were examined today at the talks between Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Durao Barroso. According to Durao Barroso, the position of the EEC toward cooperation with Latin American countries was also analyzed:

[Begin Durao Barroso recording] We also analyzed topics connected with the EEC's position toward Latin America. The minister is obviously informed about the role Portugal plays in this dialogue and Portugal's interests in strengthening this natural inclination—even for cultural reasons—of the European Community toward Latin America, above all after Spain and Portugal joined the EEC. We examined various international issues. [end recording]

[Reporter] The Uruguayan foreign minister will also be holding meetings with the Portuguese Industrial Association. Durao Barroso said these contacts would significantly boost economic relations between the two countries. They would call our business community's attention to the opportunities which Uruguay offers.

Luis Barrios Tassano said there were several areas in which both countries had wide-ranging possibilities for increasing other levels of relations with reciprocal advantages.

We found various fields in which relations between Uruguay and Portugal are possible, the Uruguayan minister said. He emphasized the importance of intensifying exports between the two countries. He thought Latin American-EEC relations have been made problematical due to protectionist attitudes. According to him, the EEC has complicated exports to Europe and (?competed with) Uruguay's exports to other markets. Thus, Portugal and Spain are, for the Latin American countries, a parliamentary bloc within the Community expressing Latin American viewpoints and difficulties.

Durao Barroso said Portugal and Spain are in favor of preferential ties between the EEC and Latin America. He said he hoped that the EEC's intentions would not only remain at this level, but would result in concrete actions.

Minister Reviews EEC Talks

PY2004031589 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano has stated that the Granada meeting was the best one between representatives of Latin America and the EEC. The Uruguayan foreign minister returned to Montevideo recently and stressed that Uruguay is highly regarded abroad because of its respect for democratic institutions. Tassano began his statement by discussing the opinion that the EEC has of the Brady plan.

[Begin recording] [Tassano] The EEC will be meeting in approximately 60 days, and it will state its definitive position on the Brady plan. Several EEC member countries, however, have already reacted favorably to this plan. All the members of the so-called Group of Seven have responded favorably to the principles of the so-called Brady plan. Thus, some progress has been made in that direction.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, you went to Portugal, too.

[Tassano] My visit to Portugal was to discuss bilateral issues, in response to an invitation from the Portuguese Government. We have excellent political relations with Portugal, but unfortunately we have been unable to develop an intensive program for trade and cultural exchange. What I mean is that good political relations were not followed by good relations in other fields—such as trade—that are of considerable importance in today's world.

I had the chance to talk with Portuguese President Mario Soares, with his foreign minister, and especially with members of the industrial confederation. The talks were aimed at devising a practical approach to improving our trade, especially regarding goods that Uruguay exports and Portugal constantly consumes.

[Reporter] Such as?

[Tassano] Such as leather and wool. These are raw materials that Portugal consumes in great quantities. Portugal produces shoes for Africa, and they must import almost all the leather that they use. This is one opportunity for us to improve trade with Portugal, and we discussed certain mechanisms that could help this trade grow and expand.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, how was the Uruguayan plebiscite viewed in the countries you visited, and how did the international news agencies and other media react to it?

[Tassano] I believe that you must already be aware of the reactions to the plebiscite. As far as I could gather from my talks with the European foreign ministers, almost all of whom went to Granada, and with the news media in Spain and Portugal, the results of the plebiscite were received with satisfaction and respect.

I believe that Uruguay has won a very important battle in the struggle for international respect and prestige. By revitalizing the nation's civic traditions, we undoubtedly enhanced Uruguay's image abroad and its prestige and respectability.

The fact that the plebiscite took place without any questions about its legitimacy and that when the results were announced all the parties involved accepted them, including the [word indistinct] of the plebiscite, speaks very well of our country. [passage indistinct]

The plebiscite was a clear-cut example of one of the country's oldest traditions. It also showed that we have buried once and for all the past that divided us, in order to build on this foundation the future we all long for.

[Reporter] Minister, was the agenda of the Uruguayan president's visit to France arranged with the French foreign minister?

[Tassano] A date has been set. The Uruguayan president has been invited to attend the bicentennial of the French Revolution, of the storming of the Bastille. President Sanguinetti will be in Paris on 12 July. The preliminary agenda includes several official activities. The only

things left to discuss now are certain details, such as the composition of the entourage and which activities President Sanguinetti will want to carry out during his visit. [end recording]

Venezuela

Central Bank President on Loan, Brady Plan

PA1904122689 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Pedro R. Tinoco, Jr, president of the Central Bank of Venezuela, announced at the 19th annual CONSECOMERCIO [expansion unknown] meeting that the country will receive approximately $2.5 billion from the IMF and the World Bank early in July.

Regarding a Venezuelan delegation's trip to New York, Tinoco said that the group will hold an important initial meeting with the banks, during which the delegation will discuss the possibility of reducing the foreign debt's principal and interest payments. Tinoco said that this meeting will be hosted by the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

In addition, Tinoco stressed the Brady plan's importance for Latin America and said that this is the first time that the United States will use a sociopolitical approach to the debt. It will not be easy to reduce the foreign debt by $24 billion, but Venezuela will work hard to adapt the Brady plan to Venezuela's needs.

[Begin Tinoco recording] This is the first meeting, and it is not expected to yield immediate results. However, it marks the beginning of a process whereby the big creditor countries have admitted for the first time that the debt problem cannot be resolved simply by extending the terms, but by lowering the principal and the heavy interest burden. In addition, and for the first time, a special program has been created under the sponsorship of the creditor countries. This program includes specific financing. This means that a dialogue on this issue is becoming feasible. [end recording]

One of the leading topics that Tinoco brought before the CONSECOMERCIO meeting was that as a result of combined efforts by the banks, farmers, and public sectors, new loans at low interest rates will be made available to the producers of sorghum, soybeans, and corn.

As for inflation, Tinoco said that price hikes are not part of an inflation spiral, but instead help balance the economy. He added that prices should stabilize in May. The important announcements that Tinoco made today include a combined effort by CONSECOMERCIO, private banks, and Central Bank of Venezuela representatives to consider letters of credit and interest rates.

Finance Minister on Reprivatization of Banks

PA1904191589 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Venezuelan Finance Minister Eglee Iturbe de Blanco presented today to the Venezuelan Chamber of Deputies Economy Committee a detailed report explaining why the Banco Italo, Banco Republica, and Banco Occidental de Descuento must revert to private hands.

Finance Minister Iturbe de Blanco, whose presence at Congress has become commonplace because of her frequent meetings with the various congressional committees, explained that the reprivatization process is part of an overall plan that has been discussed for several months:

[Begin Iturbe recording] We are not selling state-owned banks; those are not state-owned banks. The Central Bank of Venezuela has shares in those three banks. The state banks are Banco Industrial, Banco Agricola y Pecuario, Fondo de Credito Agropecuario, Fondo de Credito Agricola, and Banco de Fomento Comercial, which depends on Banco Industrial. Those banks are the basis of the state's financial system. The state is not disposing of those banks; it is actually trying to strengthen the state's financial capacity through its own network of financial institutions. [end recording]

Finance Minister Iturbe de Blanco added that the three banks do not conduct a full range of activities; they primarily conduct commercial activity, which reduces their competitiveness in the financial system.

Maracaibo 'Partly Paralyzed' by Protest Strike

PA1904201589 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] A civic strike was held today in Maracaibo to protest the economic measures adopted by the Venezuelan Executive Branch. The petroleum workers did not join the strike, which was called by the League of Brotherhood [Liga de la Confraternidad] and the Central Labor Union of Drivers [Central Unica de los Trabajadores del Volante]. The two associations are protesting the government's economic package.

Zulia State Governor Ismael Ordaz said that although people have a right to protest, the solution to their problems will not be attained through strikes. Ordaz added that the Venezuelan president is studying ways to ease the economic package's impact on the needy sectors:

[Begin Ordaz recording] If the strike is conducted respectfully, in a civic manner, and without disturbing public order, we will never use methods that go against those respectful manners we guarantee all citizens. [end recording]

As a result of the strike, which was also held yesterday on the eastern coast of Maracaibo Lake, Maracaibo is partially paralyzed. Army forces are again on the streets, but this time they are using military vehicles to transport Maracaibo residents to and from various places in the city.

Guyana

Economy Suffering From 'Crippling Strikes'

FL1504020989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2307 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 14, CANA—The Guyana Government has estimated that the economy is losing about Guy33 million dollars (one Guy dollar-3 U.S. cents) a day because of the crippling strikes in the sugar and bauxite industries.

Bauxite and sugar are the country's major foreign exchange earners and major sources of employment. They have been hit for over a week by strikes called by unions affiliated to the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG), protesting over the 1989 national budget and its 70 per cent devaluation of the dollar.

Witnesses said that protest is spreading to social sectors, and had affected leading secondary schools in Georgetown as of Friday.

FITUG had scheduled a mass rally for Linden, the major mining area 65 miles outside Georgetown, for Friday evening.

Meanwhile the government is putting together what has been described as a comprehensive statement explaining the rationale for the budget and pointing out that there could be no alternative to the current Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) of which Finance Minister Carl Greenidge's 1989 budget is only a part. It is hoping to have an International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement approved by monthend, following which the seven member support groups financial package for Guyana should also be in place.

"On the one hand, you have the government working quite actively to get the promised financial package in place and, on the other hand, you have the unions continuing their industrial action. There remains a very wide gap between organised labour and the government, because no discussion or dialogue is taking place at that level," said president of the independent Caribbean Association of Media Workers, Ricky Singh.

He said there are discussions taking place at the level of individual unions with the government. There was a meeting Thursday between the bauxite union and the minister of finance, but the union leaders told the minister that they stood with FITUG and what it is fighting for namely, discussion on the budget, subsidies, and a decent living wage. According to the unions, a decent living wage would be Guy94 dollars daily, which is roughly three times the current daily minimum wage.

It is estimated that since the strikes began about 17,000 tons of sugar have been lost. All three bauxite kilns are down, and while there are no exact figures, there are estimates that each kiln processes half a million dollars worth of bauxite a day. The ministry responsible for Guyana Mining Corporation, Guymine was unable to give accurate figures.

Opposition Protests Budget

FL1704131189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1943 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 16, CANA—Several thousand Guyanese attended a rally in the northern area of the capital, Georgetown, Saturday night at which opposition parliamentarians urged the resignation of the ruling People's Congress over its controversial 1989 budget. The opposition Patriotic Coalition for Democracy [PCD], a grouping of parties that include the Marxist-Leninist People's progressive Party and the left-wing Working People's Alliance, wound up a day of meetings with a big rally at the Kitty Market Square.

Saturday's protest action against soaring prices of basic goods, following a sharp devaluation of the dollar here, began around 10 am with public meetings at Buston, east coast Demerara, and Herstelling, east bank Demerara. It grew with whistle stop meetings along two routes into the city.

Police permission had been refused for the holding of a demonstration in the city and supporters of the action walked from one whistle stop meeting to the next. They complied with police stipulations that there should be no banners and chanting, and that people should walk no more than two abreast.

Eyewitness reports said the size of the crowds along both routes fluctuated from village to village, rising to more than 2,000 on occasions. At the Kitty Market Square where the two groups converged for the final meeting, the crowd of several thousands to hear PCD leaders denounce the government and its 1989 budget, which was described as being "murderous", "oppressive" and "vampire".

In a resolution greeted with loud shouts of approval from sections of the large gathering the rally called for the resignation of finance minister Carl Greenidge; the withdrawal of the budget; talks on electoral reform between government and the PCD; and for government recognition of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana. The resolution also criticised police for their handling of demonstrations against the budget and rejected the government's 20 percent wages and salaries increase for public sector workers.

In his remarks at the rally leaders of the opposition Marxist Leninist People's Progressive Party Dr Cheddi Jagan said the rally marked a "very eventful time" which reminded him of the early days of Guyana's struggling for independence, when "the whole country—farmers, workers, businessmen and intellectuals—was united." "We will unite everybody in this country to fight against this murderous budget which is a declaration of war and violence against the people," Dr Jagan told the crowd. "We have to tell (President Desmond) Hoyte and company, get out, we don't want you anymore. Let us have a PCD government," Jagan said.

He accused the privately-owned STABROEK NEWS newspaper and the conservative United Force Party of "blowing hot and cold" by being supportive of the government entering into an arrangement with the International Monetary Fund while contending that the budget measures were harsh. He called on the United Force to join the other opposition parties in the PCD, " and let us have a PCD government."

Jagan said the PCD will be "internationalising" its campaign against the budget and called on workers who have not gone on strike to donate five percent of their wages and salaries towards a relief fund for sugar and bauxite workers who have been on strike for the last two weeks.

More on 'Anti-Budget' Strikes

FL1704132589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2102 GMT 16 Apr 89

[By Rickey Singh]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 16, CANA—As Guyana's vital foreign exchange-earning bauxite and sugar industries remain crippled by costly anti-budget strikes, picket demonstrations and protest marches, some involving clashes with the police are now part of the generally unsettling scene here with no signs of an early solution involving government and trade unions. More than one hundred persons have already been detained by the police, a number of them facing various charges, with some, including priests, academics and trade union leaders held in prison cells overnight.

The trade unions and opposition parties have been placing much emphasis of peaceful demonstrations and marches to avoid, as officials of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG) said, "to prevent the government with the excuse for unleashing more repression on the workers."

But frequent lengthy electricity outages and ever-rising food prices and shortages of basic consumer commodities in some urban and rural communities, as well as the transportation hassle, are combining to fuel a mood of frustration and anger.

The Guyana Public Communications Agency has confirmed to CANA that together, the strikes in the bauxite and sugar industries were costing approximately U.S. one million dollars a day, or, at the current devaluation rate of three cents to the U.S. dollar about Guy33 million dollars.

With the strike in the bauxite industry now entering its third week and that of sugar two weeks, it has been estimated by the bauxite and sugar unions that in these two major productive sectors alone, more than Guy460 million dollars would already have been lost to the economy, apart from the impact of selected and more restricted industrial actions in other sectors of the society, including the commercial sector in Georgetown. All the kilns in the bauxite industry are at a standstill and very few of the eight sugar factories have harvested cane to mill.

In a statement this weekend, the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco), speaking for the state-owned sugar industry, one of the major employers of labour, said that at the end of the week ending April 15, "no sugar estate achieved the given target, resulting in loss of tax-free financial incentives to workers." The corporation also expressed its "concern over incidents of arson and vandalism" at some sugar estates. But, the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Unions (GAWN) and the National Association of Agricultural and Industrial and Commercial Employees (NAACIE), both members of FITUG, have denied any knowledge of arson, of vandalism or of having sanctioned such acts. Both, FITUG, which speaks for approximately 65 percent of the organised labour forces and the normally pro-government Trade Union Congress (TUC) have already rejected the government's 20 percent wage hike.

The government remains opposed to having dialogue, as called for by FITUG, representing the country's seven major unions, but has been meeting with some individual unions as well as representatives of the TUC. So far, there has been no official indication that the government intends to respond positively either to the TUC's demand for a daily minimum wage of at least three times that being offered by the Hoyte administration (less than U.S. one dollars or approximately Guy33 dollars a day), or any of the four demands of FITUG.

Among the FITUG demands are: withdrawal of price increase on basic commodities and restoration of subsidies on essentials, like rice, flour and kerosene; payment of a "living wage and indexation after a new budget is agreed between the government and the recognised unions," and restoration of "full trade union fights and freedoms."

At the centre of all the controversy and mounting tension across the country and measures in the 1989 budget that are linked to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) balance-of-payments support package, the major component of the package being the unprecedented 70 percent

devaluation of the Guyana dollar against the U.S. currency. The devaluation came with the presentation of the budget on March 31, leading to a drastic reduction in living standard with real income dropping by over one hundred percent.

But, the terms of the IMF agreement, for which the government of President Desmond Hoyte has already signed a letter of intent, remains a closely guarded secret, even from the president's special advisory committee, according to what one member and a leading business executive told CANA.

While the workers in the major productive sector continue to display a mood of resistance, the government is maintaining that there "is no alternative" to its IMF-linked economic strategy that involves a three-year "economic recovery programme."

One leading official of the president's office said that the government was hoping to have the IMF agreement approved by the funds executive board by monthend. At stake is about U.S. 1 billion dollars in balance of payment support. And contingent upon its approval, which was expected to coincide with the devaluation of the Guyana dollar, approximately Guy3.7 billion dollars may be forthcoming over a three-year period for the government's economic recovery programme.

The government is currently preparing a document explaining the rationale for its budgetary measures and why it must in the prevailing economic crisis, pursue its IMF programme. But its political opposition, as represented by the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) as well as the trade unions continue to predict "perilous days ahead" for the country unless there could be some consensus on new initiatives for economomic recovery.

FITUG has been holding a series of meeting in and out of Georgetown, telling workers that the government's budget was "self-defeating," that it was "counter-productive to its own IMF programme that calls for increased production and for the country to have a competives edge in exports. [no quotation marks as received]

The opposition political parties have been staging marches outside of Georgetown, since the police have severely restricted them from having either demonstrations or public meeting in the city. Thousands participated in their latest march on Saturday, April 15, on the east coast and east bank Demerara.

In the meantime, the Canadian High Commissioner to Guyana Frank Jackman witnessed the picketing of his diplomatic mission in Georgetown by the Working People's Alliance (WPA) which accused Canada of being anxious "to fund the government's economic recovery programme and to show up a discredited and decadent" administration, without showing some concern also for the need for political reforms and social justice in the country.

Canada is heading a seven-member "support group" to mobilise fund's for the government's economic recovery programme.

Jackman told CANA that all he could say was that he respected the rights of those who picketed, adding that "it was peaceful".

Canada To Aid Recovery Plan

FL1804230089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1836 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 18, CANA—Canada will provide Guyana with some Can80 million dollars in aid over the next three to four years as Ottawa's contribution to the government's economic recovery programme (ERP), High Commissioner to Guyana Frank Jackman said here.

Jackman told Guyana TV news that Guyana is one of the nations deeply in debt and the only country with the political courage to take the risks necessary to eliminate the problem.

"There is great admiration on the part of the Canadian Government for the Guyana Government on its budgetary moves albeit unpopular—and the Government of Canada wishes to be able to encourage and support these moves and largely to establish a precedent and set mechanisms and procedures that, assuming these work in Guyana, may work in other countries," he said.

Canada is currently chairman of the Guyana support group charged with raising about U.S.150 million dollars to help finance the ERP, a three-year scheme to put the rundown economy back on its feet. Other members are Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, West Germany, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, and France, with Italy as an observer.

Jackman said Canadian aid is intended to provide Guyana with balance of payments support and disbursements will start next month (May) when Can5 million will facilitate the importation of fertilisers and petroleum products.

Later this year three million dollars will be released for the purchase of paper to print exercise books for local schools.

Discussions are already underway for the provision of some 15 million dollars annually in industrial inputs for the local private sector during the three-year period, Jackman said.

PNC 'To Combat' Resistance

FL1904024889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2213 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 17, CANA—Guyana's ruling People's National Congress (PNC) has launched a campaign to combat the mass resistance to the government's austerity budget of March 31. The mobilisation programme is being spearheaded by Prime Minister Hamilton Green, NEW NATION, official organ of the PNC announced.

The campaign comes in the midst of widespread demonstrations linked to the government's 70 per cent currency devaluation and the steep price increases that followed. The paper said that over the next two weeks some 25 meetings will be held in the capital, Georgetown.

NEW NATION said that last Friday party leader President Desmond Hoyte and other members of the PNC's leadership met with leading party activists in Region 4 (Demerara-Marhaica) and more such consultations were planned.

Hoyte, the paper said "assessed the current situation in the country and discussed the strategies for mobilising support" for the implementation of the country's three-year economic recovery programme (ERP).

The budget, which provided for a 20 per cent increase in wages for public sector employees, sparked open demonstrations in several parts of the country and workers in the vital bauxite and sugar industries have been on a costly strike for more than two weeks now. The ERP is tied to a yet-to-be-signed agreement between the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Meanwhile, as the strike in the bauxite industry ended its second week Sunday, with the bauxite strike at the end of its second week, a top-level PNC team led by Prime Minister Green and including Vice President Viola Burnham visited Linden, the premier bauxite town 65 miles south of Georgetown, at the weekend for discussions with party members and supporters. The talks were expected to cover various aspects of the budget, strategies for implementing the ERP and measures for strengthening the party. And according to the state-owned Guyana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC), Green told a gathering at the Palm Tree cinema at Linden the ERP should be seen as a challenge to all Guyanese and that it was not a programme based on "impulse" but one that was well-thought out and realistic. GBC said Green also stressed that the bauxite industry and bauxite workers have crucial roles to play for the success of the ERP, but in this regard, production must be kept at a maximum.

Industries Remain 'Idle'

FL1904205289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2015 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 19, CANA—Guyana's vital sugar and bauxite industries remained largely idle Tuesday, with neither the government nor the workers and their unions prepared to budge from their hardline positions over the administrations 1989 austerity budget.

Amid the industrial uneasiness, the Guyana Sugar Corporation reported that some 141.1 acres of sugar cane at six different locations were destroyed by arsonists Monday night.

In the bauxite belt, chief executive officer of the Guyana Mining Enterprise LTD (Guymine), Dunston Barrow, in discussions with workers at Linden, the main mining centre, failed to resolve the impasse linked to steep rises caused by the budget, in particular a 70 per cent currency devaluation.

Walter Richardson, executive member of the Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU), one of the two unions operating in the industry, told CANA that some 95 per cent of the workers were still off the job and seemed determined not to return until the problem was resolved. The bauxite strike started April 3.

While senior Guymine officials could not be reached Tuesday for comment, Richardson said one calcining kiln at Linden was lit Monday and since this readying process usually takes about 30 hours, ore was not likely to start passing through the kiln before sometime Wednesday afternoon.

Last Friday, the company said that through the efforts of workers who had trickled back to work, it had succeeded in building up a stockpile of 13,000 tons of ore—enough to ensure a continuous feed to one kiln which it had hoped to light up over the weekend.

In both the bauxite and sugar industries, the question of strike relief is begining to rear its head as a major area of concern to workers.

Richardson said that while the GMWU has not yet provided any "strike relief" for its members, it will be making every effort to start doing so in a short while. He confirmed that at a public meeting in Linden Monday night, the conservative United Republican Party (URP) indicated that it will be giving financial assistance to the bauxite unions.

Executive member of the Women's Progressive Organisation (WPO), women's arm of the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), Gail Texeira told CANA the WPO has already collected "a few thousand dollars" in

strike relief for bauxite workers and hopes to send some of its representatives over the weekend to present the contributions to the wives of bauxite workers.

In the RCV [expansion not given] belt, meanwhile where all eight estates came to a virtual standstill on April 7, no significant improvement in turn out of sugar workers was reported and general secretary of the PPP-linked Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU), Komal Chand, told CANA "the strike is still very effective."

He said GAWU has not yet started providing workers with any strike relief but workers have been raising this issue and the union should shortly, with the help of well-wishers be in a position to comply. He said the seven-member federation of independent trade unions (FITUG) which groups two sugar unions, the two bauxite unions, the University of Guyana Workers Union (UGWU), the Public Service Union (PSU), and the clerical and commercial workers union (CCWU) will be meeting Wednesday to review the situation. They will also be discussing plans for Labour Day 1989 (May 1) and recent demands by the executive council of the PSU that its General Secretary Leslie Melville, who is also FITUG's press and publicity secretary, withdraw certain statements he made about President Desmond Hoyte at a FITUG press conference last Thursday or be dismissed.

Arsonists Destroy Fields

FL1704225289 Bridgetown CANA in English
2123 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 17, CANA—As the nearly two-week-old general strike in Guyana's vital sugar industry continues, the Guyana Sugar Corporation [Guysuco] reported that arsonists destroyed more than 122.7 acres of cane at three estates over the weekend. "Arsonists have apparently stepped up their campaign to destroy the canes in the sugar belt and destabilise the industry," Guysuco said in a statement. The estates hit by arson over the weekend were Rose Hall, Blairmont, and Diamond.

The Guyana Public Communications Agency [GPCA] said since the strike started just under two weeks ago, about 172.1 acres of cane worth U.S.243,000 dollars in foreign exchange earnings had been destroyed by arsonists. The GPCA said there has been a, consistent and deepening pattern of arson" on the sugar estates since the strike began. It charged that over the weekend spokesmen for the political opposition at public meetings stated "unapologetically" that it was their intention to ensure that the production targets set in the government's 1989 budget were not achieved.

The agency quoted a government spokesman as saying that "the oppositions campaign is entirely consistent with the deliberate destruction of cane" and that "clearly, the arson is not occuring by accident."

Sugar workers at all eight sugar estates walked off the job on April 5, in response to a call by the seven-member Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana for workers to strike in protest against the government's controversial budget which has sent the cost of living soaring.

In a statement over the weekend, Guysuco reported that during last week there was an improved turnout of various categories of sugar workers particularly at its Skeldon, Albion, Blairmont, La Bonne Intention, Wales and Uitvulgt Estates.

It said that during the week, only 1.5 long tons of sugar were produced from reduced grinding operations at Blairmont, La Bonne Intention, and Diamond. Production for the year so far now stands at 49,050 long tons.

"The corporation is hoping that good sense would prevail and that normalcy would be restored in the coming week," the Guysuco statement said. The corporation also reported that its third monthly production incentive period ended on Saturday but workers at none of its estates achieved their targets, resulting in their losing tax-free cash incentives.

Further on Arson, Violence

FL2004012889 Bridgetown CANA in English
2336 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 19, CANA—Incidents of arson and violence have been reported over the last 24 hours as Guyana remains gripped in a state of unease following the government's March 31 budget which has sent prices soaring. Authoritative police sources told CANA that last Tuesday incendiary devices were found at the big state-owned department store, Guyana Stores LTD, and at the privately-owned Medina Dry Goods store in the busy Water Street area.

A report today by the Guyana Public Communications Agency said the police and management of the Guyana Sugar Corporation had reported an accelerated campaign of violence and arson seemed to be developing on sugar estates and coastal areas. The agency reported that around 5 am today two bottle bombs were hurled into a truck carrying six workers to the Blairmont Sugar Estate, on West Coast Berbice. One female labourer was reported to have been injured when one of the bombs exploded and workers jumped from the moving vehicle. No significant damage was done to the vehicle.

The agency reported that sugar estates and government property had also become targets for arson, with an attempt being made around 11 pm Tuesday to burn down an unoccupied staff house at the Uitvlugt Sugar Estate on Demerara's west coast. The fire was contained and damages estimated at about Guy5,000 (one Guy dollar; 3 cents U.S.). Arsonists also attempted to destroy

the vigilance magistrates court on east coast Demerara around 4 pm Tuesday. The clerk's office was reported to have burned down and the wall of court damaged.

The agency also said that Tuesday night three bottle bombs, two of them burning, were found at Melani Cinema, owned by the ruling People's National Congress. The bombs were reported to have been discovered shortly after patrons had left the cinema prematurely because of a blackout in the area.

The sugar corporation reported incidents of arson to sugar canes at the Enmore, Lusignan, Rose Hall, and Albion sugar estates between Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. The corporation also said that is workers had discovered slow burning devices in some cane fields. These devices, sources said, were apparently left burning by the arsonists, giving them enough time to escape from the field without being detected.

Eight and a quarter acres of cane were reported destroyed last night. More than 259 acres of cane valued at over U.S.400,000 dollars have been reported lost because of arson since April 7, when sugar workers went on strike to protest the budget, which included a major devaluation of the Guyana dollar.

Opposition Criticizes New Communications Agency

FL1904121589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2219 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 18, CANA—The recently established Guyana Public Communications Agency (GPCA) has become the target here of criticism of opposition political parties.

At a rally Saturday sponsored by the so-called Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD), minority leader Dr Cheddi Jagan called it the new propaganda arm of the government and said it is one state entity that sould be scrapped, so as to save tax payer's money. And, Monday, a PCD member, the Working People's Alliance (WPA), staged a picket outside the head office of the GPCA.

The placards carried by the 30 or so picketers called for among other things the resignation of executive chairman of the GPCA, Kit Nascimento, and for the agency to "tell the people the truth."

The pickets were also critical of the government's controversial 1989 budget and "hailed" the bauxite and sugar workers now on strike in protest against the austerity programme, which has triggered a steep rise in prices linked to a 70 per cent currency devaluation, with wages and salaries rising by 20 per cent.

Suriname

Offensives by Brunswijk Commando To Resume

FL1804182989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1411 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] As of today, the so-called jungle commando of Suriname will begin a new antigovernmental offensive after the burial of one of its ethnic pillars—the chief of Saramacca, (Johan Daniel Aboikoni). One week ago, Surinamese President Ramsewak Shankar warned that after the burial of aforementioned chief, the armed group led by soldier Ronnie Brunswijk, would undertake new offensive actions against military posts in the eastern and southern parts of the country. Brunswijk said to the press that he had agreed to a partial cease-fire until the funeral in Saramacca was held so that officials could attend it without being endangered.

At the beginning of this year, the Surinamese Government tried to negotiate with the tribal chiefs of the areas where Brunswijk operates so that [words indistinct] could achieve peace.

Army Accuses Rebels of Drug Trafficking

FL1404125389 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] In Suriname, Army Commander Badressein Sital has accused rebels of the Ronny Brunswijk jungle commando unit of involvement in drug trafficking and the cultivation of coca for cocaine. A spokesman for the jungle commando unit in the Netherlands has denied the accusation but Badressein Sital says the guerrillas of Ronny Brunswijk are collaborating with a Dominican drug syndicate, Alpha 60, in return for which they are said to receive military equipment.

The Surinamese military leaders say they can support their accusations with photographs. The jungle commando unit spokesman said the accusations are merely an excuse to resume fighting. He added that the unit is willing to accept an international independent investigation to refute the accusations made by Badressein Sital.

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